J. Bailey

THE LIFE OF *DONNA OLIMPIA* MALDACHINI,

Who Governed the *CHURCH* during the Time of

INNOCENT the X.

Which was from the Year 1644. to the Year 1655.

Written in *Italian* by Abbot *GUALDI*: And faithfully rendred into *English*.

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THE PREFACE.

GUALDI, *the Author of this little Treatiſe, was one that infinitely loved Truth; and had no doubt been Cardinal, could he have diſpenſed with that profitable Sin of Lying. None that have ſeen* Rome *to any purpoſe, during the time of* Innocent *the tenth, or the beginning of* Alexander *the ſeventh, but muſt have heard of him at leaſt; as being one of the greateſt Wits of his time, ingenious, and of a modeſt temper, a great Virtuoſo; one who conſidered Honour ſo much, and the World ſo little, that whoſoever knew him, muſt needs approve the Work before he reads it. But truly, here there was no uſe of Lying, where ſo many conſiderable Truths might ſo eaſily be met with. For the Buſineſs is of ſo late a Date, that it were infinite to examine what will yet*

be delivered by Eye-witneſſes upon Enquiry. Iodeed it is the great entertainment of Converſation at Rome, *to relate the ſeveral Stories of* Innocent *the tenth, and his Siſter-in-law* Donna Olimpia. *And ſurely if Oral Tradition be of that force, as the late Innovatours would have it; they themſelves muſt confeſs (to their own ſhame and confuſion) the truth of this Story: and by the great example layed before us, that the Churchmen of the* Roman *Faith, will do any thing with a Woman, but Marry her. It muſt not be expected that the tenth part of the Lady's ſtory is to be found in this ſmall Volume: for I ſuppoſe a full Relation would take up more Paper, than that learned Man's Works, who hath troubled the world with two ſheets for each day in his Life. But this he writ to undeceive ſuch as took* Rome *for the Model of the Heavenly Jeruſalem, and the Pope and Cardinals for the Mayor and Aldermen of the Corporation. It is probable* Donna Olimpia, *who had a*

ſpite

ſpite at all deſerving perſons, did whet the Pen of this good Man by ſome Affronts or Injuries, and provoke his Zeal to a more vigorous proſecution of the Work: as God knows, we have all need to be awaked by ſome unreaſonable paſſion to do reaſon: Yet I dare ſay, nothing ſhould tempt him to ſay more than truth. And now, if matters have gone thus at Rome, *what hopes of Infallibility?* Donna Olimpia *indites to* Innocent, *ſome broad-backed Groom or Coachman ſuggeſts to her; and where to find the firſt mouth of this Oracle, is not to be determined. This Pope was choſe for his Senſeleſneſs: For when the Conclave had been tired out with bandying of Factions, and were reſolved to pitch upon ſome indifferent perſon; not being able to find out any among themſelves honeſt enough to keep to that Integrity, they choſe this as the greateſt Blockhead, and ſo leaſt able to do miſchief. I have heard of an old Civilian, who with drinking Sack and ſtudying the Laws,*

had ſo addled his Brain; that having occaſion frequently to paſs by a Chappel Door, which joyned to that he came out of, would never fail to Piſs againſt it: and is it any wonder that he who had beaten out his little Wits upon the dull Volumes of the Canon-law, and ſo long doted upon a Woman, ſhould do worſe, not only at the Church Door, but within the very Rails of the Altar? In the mean time, though Children and Fools will be pleaſed with Bables: ſhall they think to impoſe upon the reaſonable part of the World, and exempt the Pope from that determination in the Text, Every Man is compaſſed about with Infirmities? *The Jeſuit brags much of his Harveſt here in* England, *while we hold our ſelves obliged to them for weeding our Church of ſuch Creatures; who, if the ſobereſt of their own Party be to be believed, conduce more to the ſhame, than propagation of their Sect. So that we may ſay of them,* They went out from among us, becauſe they were not

not of us. *However, that which carrys on the work of these Ecclesiastical Mountebanks much more effectually among us, is that they subtly practice the method of the Devil, tempting the weaker Sex, and through their Charms draw the poor male into their Net. For who can shew his head in this Generation, and be so little a Courtier, as to deny the impertinent demand of a fair Lady? It is very seasonable therefore this accompt to the World, for a Pope in these our days to warn us of the sad effects of love transported beyond the bounds of Honour and Vertue* in his own person: *thus to confront the impudence of* Rome, *which, while it pretends to direct all Christians, by I know not what entayled Donation, tells us by its practices, what once in the time of the Ligue the Cardinal Legat at his entry into* Paris, *said all the time he intimated a Benediction by the cross motion of his Hand,* Qui vult decipi, decipiatur: *He that will be an Ass, may.*

But

But I ſhall ſtop here, leſt I ſhould draw a Whaſps Neſt about the Aſhes of the dead. The truth is, the Author is thought never to have deſigned this for the Preſs: but only writ it to ſatisfie the curioſity of ſome particular Friends. However, they who moſt eſteemed him, judged it fit ſince his Death to eternize his Name, by publiſhing ſo ingenious a Piece. Some were of opinion to moderate certain Expreſſions: but the moſt thought it not ſo equitable, to impoſe upon the Dead. It is therefore to be taken, as it was firſt brought forth: and if any find ought to ſay againſt it, let them write into the next World to the Author for an Anſwer, and keep in their right Senſes till it comes.

THE

The LIFE

OF

Donna Olimpia Maldachini.

IT is not my design to give an accurate account of *Donna Olimpia's* Life; who in the City of *Rome* acted a Man in Womans apparel, and in the Church a woman wearing the breeches. It would require a Pen, all eyes, to set down the Life of a Lady, who cast her eyes so universally upon all affairs. To write the faults without mentioning the virtues of a

perſon, who for ten years ſpace had ſo great a ſhare in the Government of the Church Catholick; is impoſſible to perform without the reputation of a Heretick: and to mention the virtues only, would be to dip my pen in the Ink without ſtaining of it. Our Age hath felt too much the ſmart of the Activity of this Lady: So that if a Writer ſhould take never ſo much pains to ſeparate the wheat from the chaff, that is, to pick out the good and leave the bad, according to the cuſtom of the preſent times, when they treat of great perſons; the world hath beheld ſo much chaff before the wheat could be diſcovered, that ſuch a ſtory would win no Credit.

I muſt needs ſay, it was a very fooliſh Age, that invented Writing: if its only end were to make falſe appear true, and true falſe. Much better had it been to have left mens manners to be deliver'd down by tradition from eye witneſſes, than to ſuch Scribes. Doubtleſs the world took very ill advice,

vice, when it ſubjected the reputaion of Mankind to the *capricio* of a frail pen. And certainly it hath been great inadvertency in man to let a miſchief grow ſo beyond the cure of Ages.

But why do I thus decry Writing, while I my ſelf pretend to write? Alas! to write what one is an eye witneſs of, is ſo natural, as the contrary is eſtranging the world from it ſelf. Give me leave therefore to ſay with the Apoſtle St. *John*, *What wee have beheld with our eyes, what wee have ſeen, and our hands have touched: that declare we unto you.*

I will write no other thing of *Donna Olimpia* but what I have ſeen in her. Her deſcent I will omit: only that ſhe was born of the family of *Maldachini*, which name made but little noiſe in *Rome* at that time. However, I would very willingly have ſpoke of her childhood and education, but that I ſaw her marryed before a Virgin. She was born before me: ſo that I cannot ſpeak of what I have not ſeen, without breaking

my promiſe of delivering only what the Theatre of *Rome* hath repreſented to my eyes for the ſpace of five and twenty years and upwards. I will but deliver what the common report of thoſe, which knew her in her younger dayes hath informed me of. That from her very infancy almoſt ſhe ſhewed an ambition to rule: inſomuch as at her childiſh playes amongſt her companions, ſhe alone would ever give law to the reſt. Thus ſhe grew up, and thus ſhe lived even till ſhe arrived to the years of marriage. It is ſaid, that her Parents, conſidering the ſmall ſhare they had in Fortunes favour, uſed all means poſſible (as it is ordinary in *Italy*) to make her reſolve upon a Monaſtick life. But ſhe, that had more propenſion to Matrimony, than a Vow, denyed flatly to yield to any ſuch purpoſe: She was therefore given in mariage to Seignior *Panfilio*, Brother to *Giouanne Baptiſta Panfilio*, who who came afterwards to be Pope. Theſe Nuptials were celebrated in *Rome*

Rome with ſatisfaction on both ſides, as loving reciprocally. Which kindneſs produced a numerous off-ſpring of females, with but one only male, which is *Prince Panfilio*, who ſerved for the ſtale to his Mothers intereſts. The firſt Scene that repreſents it ſelf (as I may ſay) in the Tragi-comedy of the Life of *Donna Olimpia*, is the coolneſs of affection towards her Huſband; which by little begun to diſcover it ſelf, without any grounds the good man could find out for it. Nevertheleſs, how difficult ſoever it was to the Huſband, the *Romans* eaſily ſmoaked the cauſe. Who ſeeing how fond ſhe was of her Brother-in-law, began to have a general ſuſpition of her virtue; as believing for a certain the times of *Herod* were revived. Nor may wee blame any for thinking amiſs of theſe two; when their actions, geſtures and behaviour gave ſo palpable grounds of ſuſpition.

Donna Olimpia went much oftner in the Coach with her Brother-in-law

than with her Huſband: entertained her ſelf much more in the Cloſet with the one, then in Bed with the other: and many times the poor Huſband knew not where to find either Brother or Wife, that is, in plain Engliſh, they always went together.

There was but one reaſon, which qualified this foul ſuſpition. And that was, divers debated it, nor could imagine, that a Lady as *Donna Olimpia* who had a body of no ordinary ſhape, ſhould be in love with the ugliеſt countenance that ever appeared in humane ſhape, as it is moſt certain her Brother-in-law was. Eſpecially ſince her Husband had ſomething pleaſing and comely in him, though not exceeding. Whereas this could only give evidence how great is the ambition of Women to domineer: which paſſion blinds them to that degree, they will not only ſurrender themſelves up to Men, but Satyrs.

Seignior *Panfilio*, the Huſband of *Donna*

Donna Olimpia, following the common practice of *Italy*, did all his buſineſs without calling his Wife to counſel. On the other ſide, the Abbot *Panfilio* his Brother never entred upon any affair publick or private, but firſt acquainted his Siſter-in-law with it; whoſe advice he took his meaſure by, as from an Oracle: nay oftentimes he went not abroad, before he had reeived her benediction.

Nor is this ſo wonderful: ſince the greateſt part of the prelates in *Rome* take this courſe to oblige ſuch Ladies as are ambitiouſly inclined. And indeed, if they did not do ſo, they would be as much hated, as they are now beloved of the Ladies of their relations. However this kind of condeſcention makes Prelates of Ladies, and Ladies of Prelates, to the no ſmal ſhame of *Rome*.

Notwitſtanding that which was no great matter for another man, found ſome difficulty in the perſon of Abbot

Panfilio: who conſcious of his unwelcome face to woman-kind, ſtudied to win the love of his Siſter-in-law by preſenting her with the entire diſpoſe of his will. She, who deſired nothing more than the exerciſe of ſuch a power, freely beſtowed her affections, the more to oblige him to an abſolnte ſurrender of himſelf. Thus the more he ſubmitted his will to *Donna Olimpia*, the more love ſhe heaped upon him. Being ſtepped from an Abbot to a Prelate, and advancing daily in Eccleſiaſtical preferments: *Donna Olimpia* had ſtill a larger field to exerciſe her authority in. For ſhe was reſolved her Brother-in-law ſhould not do the leaſt matter without her: who moſt willingly ſubmitted himſelf to her diſpoſal. Mean while the Huſband dies: by which means ſhe remained not only Miſtreſs of her Brother-in-laws will; but alſo of all the affairs of the houſe of *Panfilio*, which went no farther than the Brother, the Son and two Daughters.

How

How great the reſpect was this Brother-in-law had for her, may be judged by a Letter which lit into my hands by accident. It came from *Spain*, where Seignior *Panfilio* was *Nuntio*, directed to *Donna Olimpia* at *Rome*, and was this.

Moſt dear Siſter,

MY affairs in Spain *ſucceed not ſo fortunately as they did at* Rome : *ſince at* Rome, *and not in* Spain, *I had the aſſiſtance of your advice. Remote from you I am like a Ship without a Rudder, left to the ſole mercy of Fortune : So much I am forced to ſay in teſtimony of my affection. I beſeech you to anſwer me at large to what I write by the hand of my Secretary, and to believe me*

Your moſt affectionate ſervant
and Brother *PANFILIO.*

An incredible ſtory to one that had not read it ; that a publick Miniſter ſhould

ſhould write ſuch fond Letters to a Woman, without regard had to reputation, or apprehenſion how eaſie it is for Letters to miſcarry, as in effect this did. But ſince he had delivered himſelf over as a prey to this Lady, what could he do leſs?

Indeed this Letter was a great evidence of their love, and confirmation to what the ſpeculative people gave out, *That* Donna Olimpia *gave Inſtructions to the Popes Nuntio's.* But it will not be out of the way to touch a little upon the Nature of this Lady: before ſhe mount the *Vatican*, if not with the *Mitre*, at leaſt with the Command.

She was one of few words in the ordinary company of Ladies: but made it up ſufficiently, when ſhe came to diſourſe with Men. Though this could not be called properly her Nature: becauſe ſhe would often ſay, ſhe had not words to caſt away upon a Sex, from which nothing was to be learned worth

worth mentioning. By which you may gather, ſhe forced her Nature to condeſcend to her Judgement.

Her Diſcourſes were alwayes propped with Reaſons of State, and many times with the addition of ſome ſentence: which made people think ſhe had ſtudied much, though there was no ſuch thing. *She* had ſo happy a Memory, that with once hearing or reading over ſhe would remember any thing: which made her be thought a Lady of great Learning. It was very hard for her to ſubmit to the opinion of another, without offering great violence to her Nature. And it is certain, ſhe had rather periſh with her own fancy, than live by anothers counſel.

She was covetous to that degree, as ſhe would not ſo much as hear any body talk of the bounty of others. Nay, by a certain maxim ſhe held, ſhe made a virtue of that vice, by excuſing her avarice with this pretence, *That Women were made to gather, not to diſpenſe.* She often

often changed her Servants: leſt in time they ſhould become too familiar with her conduct. And indeed the Servants commonly mutiny'd before the years end for want of their Wages. She went ſeldom or never to Feaſts, Balls, or other recreations, which the Ladies of *Rome* uſe to divert themſelves with: leſt ſhe ſhould be obliged to make the like. That which gave her the greateſt reputation, was her charity to the poor Religious: Though ſhe did it rather out of vain-glory, than Religion: She never did an alms, that ſhe had not firſt carried in proceſſion round the Palace. And indeed ſhe was no ſooner got into the *Vatican* under the protection of *Innocent*, than alms and Religious deeds were laid aſide: Which ſhews plainly what ſhe did before was feigned. Hence *Paſquin* made bold to ſay that *Donna Olimpia* was *olim pia*, *nunc impia*; ſhe had ſome goodneſs heretofore, but now ſhe was good for nothing.

She

She neglected the education of her Children, eſpecially of her ſon: for fear it might waken his ſpirits a little, to a future diſturbance of her abſolute power over the houſe of *Panfilio*. A diabolical principle which reigns in the hearts of almoſt all the great Ladies. Thus *Don Camillo* grew up in ignorance, that he could hardly read at twenty years of age. She kept no great Table, and made her Steward bring in his Accompts every day to a Farthing. Complements ſhe would beſtow moſt liberally, and promiſe much more than any one could ask of her: well knowing that ſhe had the the knack of excuſing her ſelf, and denying whatever ſhe had promiſed, being moſt excellent and ready at it.

When her Brother-in-law was made Cardinal; it was not to be imagined with what joy ſhe received it: promiſing her ſelf from that moment hopes of a higher advance. *Panfilio*'s red Hat made *Donna Olimpia* grow higher by the

the head. Her Brother-in-laws Scarlet enflamed her heart to a more paſſionate kindneſs, and ſo much the more by the death of her Huſband, which removed all obſtacles from diverting her love upon any other object. They lived together, and ate together for the moſt part. Whoſoever had any grace to demand of Cardinal *Panfilio*, muſt have applyed himſelf to *Donna Olimpia* : but he muſt ſeek to the Cardinal for any grace from her. When any one had received a denial from the Cardinal, they never took it amiſs, only it may be ſaid as they went out, *Perchance he hath not ſpoke with* Donna Olimpia *yet.*

Donna Olimpia was ſhe that taught the Cardinal the art of diſſimulation: though it be an ancient and one of the moſt principal cuſtoms of the Court of *Rome.* I my ſelf heard her one day talk in this manner to the Cardinal:

Brother, it is not to be expreſſed what ſparks of joy your Scarlet kindles in my heart : far beyond the pleaſure you your ſelf

ſelf can take in it, who have the keys of my affections. It was your merit and not Urban's *kindneſs that made you Cardinal: who could not refuſe the Hat to a Prelate, that ſo well knows how to ſerve the Church. Deſert may call a man to be Cardinal; but never Pope, which requires other qualifications. I do not ſee that they call men to this eminent degree, who are really good; but ſuch as ſeem to be ſo. It is the outward not the inward man, that makes a Pope. He that will be a Cardinal muſt ſpeak with all, and have to do with all: but he that would mount Saint* Peter's *Chair, muſt change the Scene, and ſpeak little, and have to do with no body. The Cardinals demur not upon virtue in the election of a Pope: the only virtue at ſuch a time conſiſts in the penſive looks of ſome Cardinal. All the Hiſtories teach us, and the experience of* Urban *hath made us ſee, that the Popes change their nature, which during the time of their Cardinalate appears to have been in them, and not of them. Nothing*

now

now remains to accompliſh the happineſs of the houſe of Panfilio, *and my content; but to ſee you ſeated in the throne of the* Vatican. *That Fortune, which hath promoted ſo many others to ſuch an honour without merit or expectation, may as well advance you, whoſe worth hath juſt reaſon to expect it.* Sixtus Quintus, *who was a moſt learned perſon, feigned ignorance all the while he was Cardinal: very well knowing that ſuch a diſſembled ſimplicity had more efficacy to mount the Chair, than a ſpeculative underſtanding.*

To theſe exhortations ſhe likewiſe added ſome more; which to deal clearly, I think not befitting an Eccleſiaſtical pen to ſet down; beſides, that it would put me upon relating, what I ſaw with my eyes, which God forbid. It is ſufficient to know the whole deſign and care of *Donna Olimpia* was night and day to mind the Cardinal of putting on the maſk of diſſimulation, which ſhe uſed to call the Porter of the *Vatican.*

Nei-

Neither had these remembrances any ill success with the Cardinal: For though he was sufficiently ill natured: yet was he very simple, and ignorant in many Court Maximes which are peculiar almost to *Rome*. And therefore knowing that the whole designe of his Sister-in-law was his advancement, and having none more intimate to confer with, he entertained long conferences with her perpetually till the next Election, expecting daily, by reason of the great age of *Urban*, an empty Chair.

In order to his success, the good Cardinal was become Master at dissimulation in all particulars, but his love to his Sister-in-law: in the congregations none more un-concerned, in Conversation humble, and in the Church he acted the Devout to a hair; yet all thiswhile it was impossible to conceal his passion for *Donna Olimpia*. He loved her and idolized her as well in publick as private: to the astonishment

of every body, that a Cardinal, who had his pretences, though remote enough, in ſome ſhare to the next Election, ſhould enſlave himſelf ſo much to the love of a Lady, and his Relation.

But *Donna Olimpia* had a tranſcendent talent in the Politicks. She knew at the ſame time how to be complaiſant to her Brother-in-law, and turn his reſolutions to her own bent: and yet ſo neatly, that the generality could find no objection againſt her. Indeed ſhe underſtood ſo well how to hide the power ſhe bore over the Cardinal's will, that it was much more eaſie to diſcover in the Slave than the Miſtreſs. She alwayes ſpoke of her Brother-in-law with great modeſty and reſpect: and would ſift out with a great deal of art, the inclinations of the other Cardinals towards hers.

When it came in her way to ſpeak with any of the *Spaniſh* faction, ſhe would repreſent the great devotion the

Cardinal

Cardinal her Brother-in-law had for the Crown of *Spain*. On the other ſide, if ſhe met with any of the *French* faction, ſhe aſſured them of the inward affection her Kinſman retained for the *French*, with which upon occaſion he would be more ſerviceable to them under hand, than others that made ſhew of open friendſhip.

Towards the latter end of *Urban* the *8th.* every moment ſeemed an age to *Donna Olimpia*. For having with a great deal of ſecrecy procured one of the moſt Eminent Aſtrologers to Calculate the Nativity of her Cardinal, ſhe found by his Horoſcope, that in the Seventieth year of his Age he was to be promoted to the higheſt dignity in the Church; whence ſhe concluded infallibly he muſt be Pope.

Urban dying in the mean time in the year 1643. in the month of *May*, which was much upon the Seventieth year of the Cardinal, the confuſion and deſtraction ſhe found the Court in at that

time, fortified her hopes with much more ſtrong aſſurances.

The Cardinals uſe not to enter the Conclave upon the death of the Pope, till after ten dayes be paſſed. In which time they ballance the intereſts of the ſeveral Crowns, with the manners and inclinations of thoſe Cardinals which pretend, or that ordinarily they judge to have ſome ground of pretention. Now, it is, if ever, that the Embaſſadours demonſtrate their zeal in employing all their induſtry for the ſervice of their Maſters. They talk with this and that man, beſpatter with a thouſand calumnies thoſe they diſlike, extolling the virtues of thoſe they approve with as much partiality. So that the multitude, who eſteem by hearſay, ſet up a new Idol every half hour. They make more Popes than there are Cardinals: and many times the *Spaniards* decry thoſe of the *French* faction, and the *French* thoſe of the *Spaniſh*, to that degree, as the poor people

people cannot find amongſt all the Cardinals one worthy their choice. The life and converſation of Cardinals at ſuch a time is as cheap as Onions in the Market, where you may ſee their Eminences ſtand like ſo many poor Lambs at Sale. He that is cryed up to day, to morrow is brought as low. In this Corner of *Rome* is certainly concluded ſuch a Cardinal ſhall be Pope; in another that the ſame ſhall never be. In an inſtant it is reported all over the City, that the *Spaniards* have carried it: and the next moment there is no ſuch thing. How many Popes are made by the people, that neither *French* nor *Spaniard* ever thought of: and by the *French* and *Spaniard* unknown to the people!

In ſuch a pickle was *Rome* during the Vacancy after *Urban's* death. When *Donna Olimpia* with all the diligence imaginable applyed her ſelf to diſcover the intrigues, combinations and deſigns of the Cardinals and Em-

baſſadors, as to the Election of the new Pope. And though ſhe was naturally covetous, yet in this conjuncture ſpared ſhe no coſt in Spies to procure the beſt information. She had her Emiſſaries in every part; even to ſearch into the hearts of men, if it were poſſible. But all in vain: For ſhe could inform her ſelf of nothing more, than that her Brother-in-law was layed aſide, as to any hopes of the Chair. And it is certain, that the Cardinals at their firſt entring into the Conclave, preferred the whole reſt of the Colledge before Cardinal *Panfilio.*

One day as the Cardinals were ſhut up in the Conclave, it was told *Donna Olimpia* that there was but one only reaſon that hindred her Kinſman from being Pope; and that was the ill underſtanding he had with the *Barbarines:* to which ſhe preſently anſwered, *If that be all, this very thing will make him Pope; ſince none are more hated at this time than the* Barbarines.

The

The Cardinals came into the Conclave with a firm reſolution not ſo much as to mention *Panfilio*. Not in conſideration of his little merit: For that is an Objection never takes place in the Conclave, where the Cardinals in no wiſe ſuffer goodneſs to come into the Scale. For ſo he were an Enemy to the *French*, the *Spaniſh* faction would chuſe a Fury: were he the like to the *Spaniard*, the *French* would chuſe him, though it were the Devil himſelf: and for the Cardinal Nephews of the laſt Pope, who are alwayes upon this occaſion moſt vigilant, they would ſet up Antichriſt to be aſſured of his Friendſhip.

The night before the Conclave began, Cardinal *Panfilio* had a long conference with his Siſter-in-law. What it was I could never learn, further, then that ſome will have *Donna Olimpia* to have told him at parting, *Perchance I ſhall ſee you Pope, but never more Cardinal.* To which it is ſaid he

replyed, *Were you but Popeſs, I would willingly relinquiſh my claim.* There was now ſix Weeks paſſed in the Conclave that the Cardinals had not the leaſt thought of *Panfilio:* nor when they did begin to mention him, was it without ten thouſand difficulties. The *Spaniard*, who perceived all his creatures laid aſide, preſſed hotly for the incluſive of *Panfilio:* but the *French* inſtigated by Cardinal *Antonio Barbarino* made all their endevours to have him excluded.

There were many reaſons why Cardinal *Panfilio* was neither deſired, nor approved of. His Satyrick, Sower, Bruiſh, Saturnal look made him be taken for a contumacious ſpirit: Which gave ſome occaſion to ſay, it would not do well to chuſe an Univerſal Father (ſuch as in a manner is the Pope) with ſuch a beaſtly, deformed countenance, leſt he ſhould fright his Children with his looks from coming near him.

Others excepted againſt him for his want

want of knowledge and learning, having ſpent all his time in dreaming over the Canon Laws, which he begun to faulter in too. So that he was fancied to prove a Prince not much inclined to favour learning, which is ſo eſſential to the good of the Church. Beſides his ſtudy of the Laws was looked upon as ſuch as would make him ſick of all that were eminent in any other kind. Neither were theſe Diviners deceived: for during his Reign the Church was ſerved with ignorant Prelates, and many deſerving perſons kept out of Biſhopricks, nay perſecuted ſo far as to be baniſhed *Rome.*

It was foreſeen in him by others (and this indeed had like wholly to have excluded him) that if he were elected, the power would be ſubjected to the frail diſpoſal of a woman, through thoſe bowels of affection he bore to his Kinſwoman, who, as I have told you before, was abſolute Miſtreſs of his will. And this objection lay the harder

harder upon him, becauſe all the Cardinals knew very well how deep root this love had taken in his heart; and therefore a hard matter to take off the impreſſion, beſides the conſideration of what a pernicious ſpirit was *Donna Olimpia.*

This was the conſideration that fortified Cardinal *Antonio* and the *French* faction in their oppoſition: which they objected as the only motive to exclude him. They pleaded, that as the ſtate of affairs went, it was dangerous to give the Hereticks ſuch an occaſion of ſcandal: Who would not fail of a thouſand pretences, ſeeing the Pope reſign the whole diſpoſal of his reſolutions to a woman, to defame the Church with Libels, that ſhould be diſperſed about *Rome* daily under the name of *Paſquin.* Beſides that the paſſed kindneſſes betwixt *Panfilio* and *Donna Olimpia* which hitherto were gone no further thãn the City of *Rome*, would be divulged over the whole world,

to

to the no mean ſcandal of all Chriſtendome.

All this nevertheleſs helped but to delude the Court, and ſhew the weakneſs of thoſe that oppoſed *Panfilio*. For the more Cardinal *Antonio* ſtrove to fruſtrate his Election, the more he prognoſticated the decree of Fate, which had determined the fortune of dominion in a man of this kidney. Thus unexpected to *Rome*, in deſpite of Cardinal *Antonio*, and the aſtoniſhment of thoſe very perſons that gave their voices for him, was *Panfilio* made Pope, taking upon him the name of *Innocent*.

How *Donna Olimpia* received this news, let thoſe judge that have heard talk how predominant the ambition of rule was in her, and the influence ſhe had upon her Brother-in-law.

So highly was ſhe tranſported with joy, that from fifty yeers, which was her age, ſhe ſeemed to be reſtored to five and twenty.

She flung open the gates of her Kinſmans Palace, now Pope, to the people who came to rifle it, with demonſtrations of great Satisfaction. They ſay alſo, that ſome dayes before this Election, a certain Prelate to curry favour with *Donna Olimpia* (which he did as well to the relations of all the reſt of the Cardinals, that were in election to be Pope) went to adviſe her, that her Brother-in-law would undoubtedly be Pope; and therefore ſhe would do well to remove the richeſt furniture from becoming a prey to the people, who are accuſtomed alwayes at the Election of a Pope, to rifle the Palace of his Cardinalſhip: but *Donna Olimpia* told the good man, *That on that condition her Brother-in-law were Pope, ſhe would not ſacrifice the Palace, but her ſelf to the people.* Indeed ſo ſhe ſaid, but ſhe did it not: For her avarice prevailed ſo far with her, that ſhe hid the beſt goods. So as the people finding no great matter, began from

from that time to receive ill impreſſions of the moſt inſatiable avarice of this Lady.

The viſits a new Pope uſed to receive were few, giving audience only to thoſe of his moſt intimate confederacy, before he was ſetled; though from the firſt hour of Election they have the abſolute power: whereas thoſe to *Donna Olimpia* were frequent beyond belief. The Nobility of *Rome* flocked to her in Troops, the Embaſſadours, the Cardinals, and the Ladies: all which ſhe received with a moſt obliging countenance at the beginning, till afterwards, that ſhe begun to find her ſelf faſt in the ſeat, ſhe put on a look that ſower'd all.

The very night *Panfilio* was choſen, about two hours after the day was ſet in, ſhe went privately to the Popes Palace to give him a viſit: who received her with great demonſtrations of affection, and it was obſerved in kiſſing his Feet *Donna Olimpia* and the Pope both

both wept for joy. This Lady entertained her ſelf here till midnight, the dores ſhut all the while, only that Seignior *Camillo*, her Son, went in and out ſeveral times. By the Popes permiſſion ſhe viſited all the Chambers, even to his bed, which ſhe would ſee whether it was made or no, giving order for the diſpoſal of other furniture.

Next day, when ſhe was come home, ſhe began to take the ſtate of a Princeſs upon her with all thoſe that came to viſit her. Cardinal *Antonio* who apprehended more than others what afterwards befell him, ſhewed the greateſt reſpect and reverence towards her. Inſomuch as it was obſerved when he complemented her, he often repeated the title of Excellence; beſides that he was not with the laſt that preſented both her and her Son. But the good Lady finding it was now the time to revenge thoſe injuries ſhe had received from the *Barbarines*, made no great return

return to Cardinal *Antonio's* civilities, receiving them with a great deal of coolneſs, as probably keeping in mind the rumour this Cardinal had ſet about the Town concerning her amours with her Brother-in-law.

This action renders her worthy the title of treacherous. For when *Urban* lay a dying, and during the vacancy, both by her ſelf and others ſhe held the *Barbarines* in hopes with fair promiſes, that if her Brother-in-law chanced to be Pope, they ſhould not only be confirmed in their preſent proſperity, but advanced. Though it is very true, the *Barbarines*, well read in the Court diſſimulations, gave no great heed to her words, but oppoſed his Election with all their power. So that *Donna Olimpia* on the other ſide perceiving their diffidence, reſolved to truſt them as little,

The firſt thing *Donna Olimpia* procured at Court, was the ruine of the *Barbarines*. However knowing it would

would prove no eaſie matter through the unblameable life of Cardinal *Franceſco*, and the ſtrong intereſt of *Don Tadeo*, to oppreſs a family fortified with ſo immence a treaſure as that was; ſhe counſelled the Pope only to the deſtruction of Cardinal *Antonio*, as aſſuring her ſelf of mater enough to attaque the life of a perſon ſo much hated in *Rome*.

It was reported with a great deal of truth, that the Pope had not perſecuted the Cardinal to that degree, had not *Donna Olimqia* been ſo frequent in her importunities. Though he hated him for many reaſons, particularly for the oppoſition he made againſt his Election: yet was he reſolved for all this but to mortifie him a little. But *Donna Olimpia* preſſed ſtill his utter extirpation, that ſhe might get his Abbies and other Revenues into her clutches. Which indeed, as to his poſſeſſions ſhe effected, though ſhe miſſed of his life. For the Cardi-

nal

nal being warned of the Popes good intentions, and *Donna Olimpia's*, fled disguised through *Italy* into *France*, scaping narrowly at *Savona* to be seized Prisoner. And most assuredly had he then fallen into the Popes hands, he had been tryed for his life, and executed. But God had mercy upon him.

Donna Olimpia was designed immediately to remove into the *Vatican*, and set up her station next the Pope. Which he had not only yielded to, but sought; if Cardinal *Ranzirolo* by force of reason had not laboured to divert both him and her from such thoughts; Representing it as scandalous not only to *Rome*, but the whole world: as enough to confirm the truth of those rumors, which were as yet doubtful to many. Upon this consideration, the Pope made her keep at home: But withall, gave her leave to come every day (or night I should say rather; because it was commonly after Sun-set, she went and stayed there till mid-

night into his preſence, which ſhe never failed of.

This Cardinal *Panzirolo* was the only engine that ſet the great maſs of the Popes brains a going after *Donna Olimpia*. Nay, oftentimes he had greater influence upon the Pope, than *Donna Olimpia* her ſelf. He had exactly the length of the Pope's foot, and knew how to adviſe him ſuitable to his inclinations; which was a great ſatisfaction and eaſe to his Holineſs, with whom he would confer all day, and ſometimes the night too. For this Pope had a laudable cuſtome, never to go to bed till after midnight. Quite contrary to his Predeceſſor; who went to his reſt preſently after the Evening, and got up again at break of day to diſpatch the publick Affairs.

The Government of this Pope was a little embroyled, while Cardinal *Panzirolo* lived. For he made it his endevour for the moſt part to diſappoint the Counſels of *Donna Olimpia*: And ſhe,

ſhe, on the other ſide, to find ſome objection ſtill to what he adviſed. But after the death of this Cardinal, the Government was wholly Feminine and ſcandalous, to the juſtification of what the Cardinals, *Lantes* and *Barbarino*, declared in the Conclave. Cardinal *Lantes*, who was a man of an exact experienced wiſdom, was demanded what Judgement he could give of Cardinal *Panfilio*, in caſe he came to be Pope: who anſwered without demur, *That he would be a good Pope from the* Ponto-molle *to* Rome; the which Bridge is but a mile from *Rome*. Meaning that he would do good for the City of *Rome*, by Buildings and other graces, for the aggrandizing the houſes of *Rome*, as in effect he did: but he added, *That he would prove very pernicious to the State, and profit of Chriſtendome; beſides, that many particular perſons would ſmart for it.*

This Cardinal, without doubt took his meaſure from the abſolute devo-

tion the Pope bore to his Siſter-in-laws will: concluding that as Women think of nothing farther than what they have before their eyes, and within reach of their hands; the Pope would ſurely lay all other Conſiderations aſide, through *Donna Olimpia's* advice, for the embelliſhing of *Rome*, to the neglect of Church and State: Nor was he out in his prophecy.

In the ſame manner Cardinal *Franceſco Barbarino*, a man of a moſt exemplary life, being intreated to give his opinion of Cardinal *Panfilio*; preſently replyed, *he would make an excellent Pope for the women.* A *Sentence* too notorious to be interpreted a Prophecy. To ſay the truth, *Donna Olimpia* diſpoſed of all the Court Affairs, publick and private: There not being the leaſt Buſineſs ordered without her good liking, in part at leaſt. For moſt frequently as he hath been treating with Cardinal *Panzirolo* about any particular, it hath been heard come from his Holineſs his mouth

mouth, *What will* Donno Olimpia *ſay?* Which makes it moſt palpable, that he was afraid of diſpleaſing her. For which reaſon *Panzirolo* conſulted with *Donna Olimpia* for the moſt part before he propoſed any buſineſs to the Pope; for fear he might otherwiſe contract the Odium of that aſpiring Lady.

She importuned to have her Son made Cardinal, which was not refuſed her; and to have him declared *Cardinal Patron*, as being a Title conferred always upon the Pope's neareſt Nephew. *Donna Olimpia* was induced to this upon a double motive; neither of which proceeded from any natural affection, but meerly politick. The firſt was to leſſen Cardinal *Panzirolo*'s Intereſt with the Pope, by taking the tranſaction of Affairs off his hands: Promiſing her ſelf for certain, when once a *Cardinal Patron* ſhould be declared, to whom of courſe belongs the management of Affairs both publick and private, *Panzirolo* would voluntarily

rily abſent himſelf from the Court; beſides, that the Pope having ſo near a help, would ſeek no further. The other was to make her ſelf more abſolute: For though her Son were in ſo conſiderable a Station, yet by the incapacity of the Subject ſhe made no doubt to be Miſtreſs, her poor childe not daring to truſt his own ſtrength in any buſineſs without the advice of his Mother. And no doubt it had proved ſo, if her Son had not repented ſo ſoon of his bargain, in taking ſuch a taſk upon him.

The Pope undertook at the creating his Nephew Cardinal, to inſtruct him by degrees in the conduct of publick Affairs; being conſcious of his mighty ignorance. But the Nephew, inſtead of advancing, went backward, not attaining in ſo many months to the capacity of negotiating the leaſt circumſtance alone: For which his Uncle reproved him a thouſand times a day, for a block-head. To prevent which

fault,

fault, there came not the leaſt buſineſs to him, that he did not conſult his Mother, which fell out to her hearts deſire. This defect of his, as it made him avoid all buſineſs to his power; ſo was he likewiſe troubled at it to find himſelf engaged in what ſuited not with his talent or way of living. In this mean while the Princeſs *Roſſana* became a Widow, then which he could not have wiſhed for a better occaſion: nor would he loſe it, but reſolved immediately to lay by his Scarlet, and marry the Princeſs, againſt the conſent both of Mother and Pope.

There was no great diſtance of time betwixt his renunciation to the Carnalſhip and his Wedding: to the aſtoniſhment of *Rome*, at ſo unexpected a Marriage. The news of this was no ſooner brought to the Pope's ears, than he held a two hours conference with *Donna Olimpia*, to reſolve what was to be done in this caſe. The reſult of which was, that the Prince *Camillo* and

his Lady, ſhould be baniſhed from *Rome*. Upon which the Orders were brought him to depart, to the amazement of all people. However it was ſubmitted to, though not without ſome regret on the Princeſs her ſide: who piqued at ſuch uſage, took the liberty to utter ſome diſcourſe, which made not for the honour of the Pope, or reputation of *Donna Olimpia*.

There was none but wondred at this diſgrace: there not being the leaſt objection to the Match, that might diſpleaſe his Holineſs; eſpecially ſince he was the only branch of the houſe of *Panfilio*: Surely the Pope ought to have excuſed his natural infirmities, and have approved his noble change, ſo much conducing for the keeping up the Family. Beſides the conſiderableneſs of the Fortune with a perſon of her quality, beauty, and youth: all which ſhe had in perfection, with ſeveral other vertues, and the hopes of a numerous off-ſpring, which

was

was fulfilled by the production of three Sons. One would think the Pope had more reaſon to commend than quarrel his Nephew after all this.

Thoſe that looked more narrowly into circumſtances, would not have it to be any diſlike the Pope took againſt his Nephew, that he was in diſgrace; but out of a certain vain-glory, to make the world believe him a zealous Patriarch, in laying aſide all conſiderations of his blood and family, to vindicate the honour of the Church, which he looked upon as undervalued by his Nephews laying down his Cardinals Cap.

The other deſign in baniſhing his Nephew, as many will have it, proceeded from this reaſon: That the Pope perceiving the Revenue of the houſe of *Aldobrandino*, which was that of the Princeſs, charged with Legacies and other incumbrances, did his Nephew this courteſie by baniſhing of him; that being out of the way in the

the Country for the moſt part, he was exempt from that expence and ſtate he muſt otherwiſe have been at upon the Marriage of a Popes Nephew with a Princeſs born to ſo great a fortune: By this means declining the preſent charge the *inheritance* came in the more cleer. But this was a conſideration ſo ſordid, that I can ſcarce believe it of a private perſon: much leſs of a Prince, whoſe mind is daily excited to generous actions. This diſcourſe, to ſay the truth, begun in the ſhops amongſt the Tradeſmen, who for the moſt part meaſure by the largeneſs of their own Souls, at ſix *per cent.* However it gained credit through the diſcourſe and opinion of the moſt refined Courtiers: who ſaid, the Pope would never have done this of himſelf, but that Cardinal *Panzirolo* ſeeing the importunity and noiſe *Donna Olimpia* made for the baniſhment of theſe two perſons, to humour the buſineſs, gave this out for the reputation of the Pope's good nature,

nature, and *Donna Olimpia's* avarice.

But it is time I now ſhew you, why *Donna Olimpia* forced her ſelf to put her Son in diſgrace with his Uncle: which might otherwiſe appear impoſſible for a Mother, or common humanity. Therefore thus it was, that no man doubted but the Mother was the main and only inſtrument that wrought the baniſhment of her Son, and ſo it will be worth pains to know the particularities of a thing ſo extraordinary.

Upon the notice of Prince *Camillo's* deſign, *Donna Olimpia* grew jealous leaſt the conſiderableneſs of ſo great a Match might create her Partners in the diſpoſal of the Pope, at leaſt limit her in part if not in the whole. What gave her the greateſt ſuſpition, was the knowledge ſhe had of the Princeſs of *Roſſano* her Daughter-in-law, reputed for a Lady of great wit and diſcretion, who ſpoke ſolidly always upon good grounds; which would no doubt in time have won upon the Pope. And

that

that which the more aggravated her jealouſie, was that ſhe very well knew the inclinations of the Pope to love the Female Sex: ſo that ſhe certainly concluded his Holineſs would take more pleaſure in having to do with a young Niece, than an old Siſter-in-law. For this cauſe ſhe uſed all her cunning to render the Nephew odious to the Uncle, againſt the bonds of nature and conſanguinity: that ſhe might ſatisfie her Ambition of guiding the Popes will at her own diſcretion. Nor was it ſtrange that the ſame Pope ſhould put all his Affairs into her hands, to whom he had long ſince reſigned his heart: though ſhe abuſed this power to ſuch a degree, that ſhe brought the whole Court to her beck.

Beſides, if we conſider the endowments of Prince *Camillo*, we cannot but think the Pope had ſome reaſon on his ſide to forget his Relation. For at what time he made him Cardinal, he deſigned to fit him for the employment of

of a firſt Nephew, for the which he found a great incapacity in him; inſomuch that the more his Uncle inſtructed him, the greater Dunce he grew, that ſcarce a day paſſed without a multitude of reproofs and chidings: the fear of which, as he endevoured to be more diligent, run him ſtill into greater abſurdities; ſo that the Pope could never ſee him without extreme regret.

The Court wondred moſt at theſe two particulars, in the baniſhment of Prince *Camillo*. The firſt was to ſee a Pope ſo beſotted with a Woman, as to puniſh his Nephew for having directed his love to a Princeſs of equal quality to himſelf. Who could but admire to ſee a Pope given over to the exceſs of an aſpiring Woman, who governed Church, State, Court, and Pope himſelf with a high hand: and at the ſame time become ſo cruel to his only Nephew for appropriating with the love of ſo noble a Lady, ſo conſiderable a Patrimony

Patrimony to the houſe of *Panfilio!*

The ſecond wonder was to ſee a Princeſs ſo much ſought after by other great Princes, to place her affections upon one that was noted for his ſimplicity and ill nature. Had it been for this reaſon alone, he was obliged to have commended the choice of his Nephew, and received them both into his favour. But for all this it is no ſtrange thing to ſee a Princeſs condeſcend to ſuch a Match; when we conſider the nature of the *Roman* Ladies, who had rather govern a City of Church-men, than a Kingdom of Cavaliers.

It may be wondred at, that the Pope in the beginning of his Reign, ſhould ſeek to extinguiſh the houſe of *Panfilio*, by taking his Nephew into the Church, who was the only branch of the Family; when we ſee for the moſt part, that former Popes, to eſtabliſh their Houſe and Name, have ruined the State, and ſet all the World together by

by the Ears; and this on the contrary, to the amazement of all men, to ſeek the ruine of his own Houſe. But to do him right, the Pope was never of this mind: but reſolved to marry him, as *Panzirolo* adviſed. *Donna Olimpia* was ſhe (an incredible ſtory if experience did not prove beyond controle) that unmanned the Pope, and brought him to yeild to the baniſhment of his Nephew: chooſing rather to blot out the name of *Panfilio*, than ſuffer the leaſt dimunition in that authority ſhe had over the Pope, which ſhe apprehended might be endangered by her Sons Marriage.

Prince *Camillo* being gone from *Rome* with his Lady, *Donna Olimpia* ingroſſed the whole Court affair, yet with no ſmal regret at *Panzirolo*'s ſo good credit with the Pope. However *Panzirolo* not interrupting her in her main deſign of heaping up riches, ſhe would not diſcover that private malice ſhe bore againſt him. She would have

have had the Pope diſcharge himſelf of all buſineſs, and leave it to his Confidents, which ſhe comprehended within her ſole perſon. To this end ſhe ſought all means to divert him from that care he then took of Church and State.

For he was wont at the firſt to be very ſollicitous in enquiring into all the affairs of *Rome*, receiving the Petitions, and hearing the Complaints of thoſe which were aggrieved, from their own mouths. But *Donna Olimpia* made him quit ſo good thoughts, by inſinuating that it would be better to keep himſelf in repoſe for the good of Chriſtendome, than to haraſs himſelf out ſo with hazard of his life. She conjured him to ſpeak but little, and when he was never ſo little indiſpoſed, ſhe would ſeem very much afflicted, and blame him as acceſſary to his own miſchëif, by troubling himſelf with buſineſs more than needed. The poor Pope, who believed ſhe did all this with

with a ſincere and ſingle heart, adored her; for want of ſenſe enough to perceive that this zeal proceeded not from the love ſhe bore him, but a meer trick to get the diſpoſal of all into her own hands.

She perſwaded him to moderate ſuch expences as ſhe thought ſuperfluous, by abating the Sallaries of divers Officers, making particular Laws, and reforming his own Table, and indeed all things whoſe charge drained the Popes purſe, which ſhe kept without ever giving any accompt to him.

The greedineſs of the *Barbarines* in ſcraping up Money, which was the moſt exceſſive *Rome* had ever ſeen; in compariſon of that of *Innocent*, I ſhould ſay, *Donna Olimpia* was but a flea-biting. No Judge Criminal, but was made by her recommendation, to whom ſhe gave moſt barbarous inſtructions to ſupply her avarice. She warned them to look after

the Purſe and not the Blood: and would frequently write to them, to ſend her the Redemptions of the Guilty, becauſe ſhe intended to lay them out for the benefit of the Poor. Upon which the covetouſneſs of the Judges, ſeeking for their ſhare too, the Extortion and Rigour was brought to that height, as it was impoſſible to imagin it higher. And though the Pope had certain information that thoſe Judges were exceſſive cruel, and robbed without meaſure or diſtinction: yet neither were the Oppreſſed relieved, nor the Judges puniſhed; and that through the pernicious impreſſion *Donna Olimpia* had made upon him.

He ſaid that Divine Providence, which diſpoſed his Will, had appointed by his hands good Men, for the Execution of Juſtice: Therefore to ſpeak ill of his Miniſters, were to charge Divine Providence, which had inſpired him to the choice.

Neither

Neither Words nor Examples, which made out clear to him the contrary of that falſe Belief, and ſcandalous Opinion, he had entertained; could ever make him quit that wicked Fancy.

A certain *German* Count, a Proteſtant, having heard ſpeak one day of this Belief of the Pope's concerning his Miniſters, told his Friend, *I ſee plainly it will one day be requiſite to hold all the Popes Subjects for Infallible.*

But *Donna Olimpia* did all ſhe could to hinder Complaints from coming to the Pope's ears, receiving them her ſelf, after ſhe had firſt received the Money of the Oppreſſours: Thus admitting of contrarieties at the ſame time.

All the diſcourſe of *Rome*, was *Donna Olimpia's* inſatiable thirſt after Wealth: For every one admired that in the time of ſo many other Popes, who had many Nephews,

that all robbed, that is, provided for themſelves; there was not ſo much extortion ſeen, as in the time of *Innocent*; when all went into the Purſe of *Donna Olimpia*. For ſhe would not let her Sons-in-law ſee a Farthing, but conſidered them as if they had not been: of whom it will do well to give ſome account.

The Houſe of *Panfilio* (except *Donna Olimpia*, who came out of the Houſe of the *Maldachini*) conſiſted only of the Pope, his Siſter, *Don Camillo* and his two Siſters. His Holineſs his Siſter much elder than himſelf, was called Siſter *Agatha*; concerning whom there is not much to ſay: For ſhe never came out of her Cloiſter, but when the Pope ſent for her; which he did to cheer up his heart to ſee her ſo luſty at an age more advanced than his own. This Lady, during the time her Brother was Cardinal, held a very good correſpondence with *Donna Olimpia* her

her Siſter-in-law: but after he was Pope, ſhe began to defie her, and not without ſome reaſon: For ſhe perceived her Brother had debarred her from ſolliciting any grace, while he heaped them upon her Siſter-in-law. So that as moſt that lead Monaſtick lives, are naturally propenſe to Envy, ſhe entertained a greater Hatred for her Siſter-in-law, that reaped the benefit; than her Brother, who afforded the Harveſt. And truly for the ſpace of ten years under the Reign of her Brother, ſhe never could obtain any favour above the bleſſing of a Medal. This unkindneſs proceeded not directly from the Pope, though he was a perſon not over-free of his Favours: but from the prejudice *Donna Olimpia* had poſſeſſed him with; making him believe, that if once he began to gratifie his Siſter, the Nuns, who are naturally very importunate, would never leave preſſing her to

beg Favours: by which means, neither he nor his Sister ſhould ever be at reſt. This charitable conſideration, was all this while, the leaſt of her thoughts: But ſhe apprehended that Sister *Agatha* would receive all the Preſents of thoſe ſhe procured Graces for; and therefore contrived it ſo, that nothing ſhould be granted her, that ſhe her ſelf might make that profit.

Of *Don Camillo*'s two Sisters, the firſt was married to *Don Andrea Juſtiniani*, a Prince that may be reckoned amongſt Fortune's Diſciples. This man was called to be Heir to the late Marquiſs *Juſtiniani*: who finding no Heir by deſcent, caſt his eye upon this Creature, at that time a miſerable poor Knight: Who though it was at a great diſtance, yet originally he came of the ſame Stock with the Marquiſs. Arrived therefore to ſo conſiderable a pitch of Fortune, himſelf made it yet greater

ter by marrying *Innocent's* Niece, who though he was then but Cardinal, became Pope ſoon after, which conferred thoſe priviledges upon the Prince, as alwayes attend Popes Nephews. However, his Relation made him not much richer: For except the uſual Honours and Charges, that are conferred of courſe upon the Popes Nephews, which are not unprofitable; the Pope never intended farther, knowing that as he was a good manager of the Eſtate which was fallen to him, he would think himſelf very well, that he had made ſo good a paſs in his Knight Errantry. Beſides, the Pope thought not fit to commit any Charge of weight upon him; finding him a perſon, except that he was a good honeſt man, of very ordinary parts. The Princeſs his Lady was welcome enough to the Pope; but with the ſame reſtrictions, that nothing was to be got: For her Mother would

ſeldom or never ſuffer her to come into the Popes preſence. Thus were Huſband and Wife both deceived, even in ordinary Favours, which their demands never exceeded, nor often prevailed.

Don Camillo's ſecond Siſter was Married to Signior *Don Nicolò Ludoviſio* Prince of *Piombino*, Nephew to *Gregory* the Fifteenth, and Brother to that Cardinal Patron who in the time of his Uncle diſpoſed abſolutely of all Church Affairs. This Prince thought to have had great matters by his Wife, receiving the greater part of her Portion in large hopes, which Cardinal *Panzirolo* gave him, who made the Match. And truly there was ſome grounds to believe it: becauſe it was in that nick of time that *Don Camillo* was made Cardinal. For he preſumed, conſidering the weakneſs of this perſon, the real power of a Nephew would devolve to him; and that being

exerciſed

exerciſed in government, all buſi-neſs of State, publick and private, would fall to his ſhare: which was the reaſon made him ſo hot upon this Match. But he found himſelf mightily deceived, his Mother-in-law (*Donna Olimpia*) not ſuffering the diſpoſal of a thing ſo conſiderable to paſs through other hands than her own: ſo that the poor Prince was obliged to be fed like a Childe with what ſhe gave him.

Nor did the Prince get any thing by lamenting his ſad condition, to be debarred the means to thoſe favours which alwayes attend ſo near Allies to a Pope: For *Donna Olimpia*, netled at his diſcourſe, gave him to underſtand, that he had received ſufficient grace and honour ſince the Pope had layed all others aſide to prefer him to the Marriage of his Niece. As much as to ſay, he had no reaſon to complain of a Match, that put him in a capacity of repairing the

the breaches made in the fortune of his Family. Upon this anſwer the Prince remained ſilent by the advice of his natural prudence; diſſembling all, and continuing his obſervance to her as Mother-in-law, and the Popes favourite.

However, this Prince omitted not to vent his paſſion among friends upon occaſion, by ſaying, that his alliance with the Pope, in ſtead of raiſing, had diminiſhed him, through the diſguſt it gave him with the *French*, who hereupon had made his State of *Piombino* the object of their fury: So that not being able to revenge themſelves upon the Pope, they would at leaſt fall upon what belonged to his Relations. Thus by his alliance he became a certain loſer: whereas the recompenſe he received was not conſiderable, being compriſed only in the *Vice Admiralſhip* of the Pope's Galleys, and ſome other ſlight matter, that was not com-

comparable to his loſs. The Command of the Galleys, was beſtowed upon him at the inſtance of *Donna Olimpia:* not out of any deſire to advance him, but by that means to ſend him far enough from *Rome:* for the Pope was reſolved to ſend the Admiral with his Galleys, to aſſiſt the *Venetians* in the *Levant-war.* The Prince was alſo diſpleaſed, that the Pope ever ſent for him at vacant hours, when there was no diſcourſe admitted, more than for Recreation: And though the Prince would begin ſometimes to talk ſeriouſly of Buſineſs, he was ſtill interupted by his Holineſs. By which the poor man perceived he was to be treated as Buffoon, and not Nephew to the Pope.

And now we come to *Donna Olimpia*, who for five years and upwards exerciſed in a manner the whole power of Pope *Innocent.* This Lady, as I have told you elſewhere, governed

ned the Pope for a long time before. As ſhe was a woman of a great deal of wit and ſubtlety: ſhe knew ſo well how to time her buſineſs and order circumſtances for the captivating his will, as foreſeeing what might happen; nor failed ſhe of her aim. Thus ſhe not only diſpoſed of him when he was Biſhop, Cardinal, and Nuntio; and of all he had, without the leaſt contradiction: but even after he was Pope, ſhe underſtood ſo well how to keep her ground in the middeſt of ſo much greatneſs, by holding off all thoſe which were not her creatures; that it was no eaſie matter to move her in the leaſt either by conſideration of the great inconveniency every way to ſee the Supreme of the Church ſubjected to the licentious appetite of a moſt ambitious Woman; or the general diſſatisfaction of the Court, which for want of a Cardinal Nephew would be wholly excluded from

from all affairs by this Lady. But alas! Who ſhould govern the Chair ſooner, than ſhe, who was ablolute Miſtreſs both of it, and him that held it? A Lady, that ought deſervedly to be admired for a judicious and ready Wit, eſpecially where any thing was to be got, or for any wickedneſs. And it is moſt certain, none but *Donna Olimpia* could have overcome all difficulties for the holding the Reins of Government but ſix Months, whereas ſhe continued ſix years together. And what was the more to be wondred at, excepting her exact rules of Economie; her endowments were like other perſons. But ſhe ordered this ſo cunningly, that it gained upon the Pope's affections to ſuch a degree, as made way for her to act without law or reſtraint.

She reduced the Datary to her abſolute diſpoſe: For whereas before, the Maſter of the Datary was abſolute, to ſell all Places at a certain Rate;

Rate; he was now left a ſimple Executour of the Pope's Orders, and many times of *Donna Olimpia's* little Notes; though indeed, what the Pope commanded, proceeded from her directions. However, the Cardinal that was Maſter of the Datary, being a wiſe man, took all in good part; though every one pitied him for ſo great a Slight as was put upon his perſon.

In fine, whatever Office at Court fell, nothing was diſpoſed of, without the knowledge and good-liking of *Donna Olimpia*. If any Benefices were to be beſtowed, great or ſmall, the Officers of the Datary were to keep them in hand, till ſhe had fully informed her ſelf of their value; and then ſhe culled out the beſt for her own diſpoſal. Whatever Biſhoprick fell void, they that pretended to it, were to addreſs themſelves to her; and he that offered moſt, without conſideration, either of Capacity or Deſert,

Deſert, was introduced. Abbeys, Canonicates, and all other Dignities and Governments, whether Civil or Eccleſiaſtical, were all conferred at *Donna Olimpia's* pleaſure and command: before whom, there was no appearing empty handed. Nay, you muſt bring the full value of the Place: For the Rates were ſo ſet, that an Office of a thouſand Crowns a year, that laſted but three years, he that had it, was to pay a years Revenue to *Donna Olimpia*; if ſix years, double, and ſo on proportionably: But if it were an Office for Life, ſhe would not be aſhamed to aſk the Moiety of the Revenue for the firſt twelve years. Some Biſhopricks lay void, more than five years together, (however, ſhe received the profits of them all that while,) only becauſe ſhe could not find a Chapman for them, that would preſent her at ſo dear a Rate. An Abbot of the Kingdome of *Naples*, beg-

gerred

gered his Houſe, by coveting a Biſhoprick, that was at *Donna Olimpia's* diſpoſe: For he was given to underſtand, he muſt pay twenty thouſand Crowns for it, if he would have it. The poor man, who could not make up ſuch a ſum in his whole Family, perſwaded his Brothers to joyn in the ſelling all their Patrimony, and take up upon Credit what they could, to make up the ſum: Which being done, and the money paid, he was named to the Biſhoprick, but dyed before he had been fully poſſeſſed. Thus was the whole Family ruined, and *Donna Olimpia* reſtored to the poſſeſſion of the Benefice, which ſhe ſold again to ſome other perſon.

Such was the exorbitance of this modern *Agrippina's* avarice, that ſhe made her conſent ſo neceſſary in promoting any body, as without it nothing could paſs. Oftentimes ſhe would make the Cardinals treat the

ſame

ſame Buſineſs over again in their Congregations, which they had diſpatched once before, and confirmed by a Definitive Decree; nay more, in thoſe very Congregations where the Pope himſelf had been preſent, and concurred in perſon.

Through this great influence came it to paſs, that all the Court Officers, either out of fear or hopes, made court to her, not performing the leaſt duty without her knowledge or advice.

Cardinal *Panzirolo* himſelf, though ſo much taken up with the buſineſs of his Place, beſides his frequent indiſpoſitions; was nevertheleſs, to humour this Lady, obliged many times to go in perſon to find her out, and give her an accompt of all the ſecret Affairs that occurred. Thus ſhe from time to time with a Majeſtick nod, Pope-like, a bundle of Memorials in her hand already reſolved upon, would ſpend hours with

his Holineſs in ripening her Propoſitions; the which were often deſcanted upon, with bitterneſs enough ſometimes. For the ſharp Wits were as well piqued as aſtoniſhed, to ſee the Court ſo cloſe towards men of deſert, and ſo prodigal upon thoſe that deſerved nothing. There was no medling with the faults of thoſe that had the power in their hands, though all men were moved with indignation, to reflect, how with a look of this Lady, people were baniſhed the Court, even thoſe that were the ſole hopes of the Family of *Panfilio*. Every one was amazed to ſee the unnaturalneſs of the Pope, who was not ſenſible of the propitious inclination of Heaven towards his Family through his Nephew, who in the time of his Exile had two Sons by the Princeſs (which by other Popes was always eſteemed the greateſt bleſſing:) but continued ſo little concerned at all this, that he never

never ſo much as thought of calling him back.

And now it is fit you ſhould know the reaſon, why the Pope was ſo hardened, as to regard his Nephews Off-ſpring ſo little. At what time *Donna Olimpia* had perſwaded the Pope to make *Don Camillo* Cardinal, againſt his Holineſs own ſenſe, that of his Relations and *Panzirolo's*; ſhe made uſe of this deviliſh pretence, that her Son was inſufficient, and therefore it would do very ill to make any Lady ſo miſerable by ſuch a Match: beſides, that it muſt have been a great affliction to the Man, when he found himſelf uncapable ever of having Children. Upon this, when ſhe underſtood the Princeſs was with Child, and afterwards brought to bed of a luſty Boy, ſhe took up more wicked and helliſh courſes than formerly. She put it into the Pope's head (I tremble to think of ſo horrid an action) to ſuſpect the honour of

the Princeſs of *Roſſano* her Daughter-in-law, and made him believe the Children were indeed hers but not her Husbands, who was utterly uncapable of Generation.

The Pope ſoon believed it, as coming from *Donna Olimpia's* mouth, to whom he had ſworn entire ſubmiſſion: For between theſe two there paſſed nothing more than command and obedience: ſhe ſaid the word, and he obeyed. Inſomuch, that ſome ſaid ſhe had laid a charm upon him. And truly I am apt to believe it: how elſe (laying aſide all other conſiderations) were it poſſible that ſuch a red-faced, clowniſh fellow ſhould prove ſo compleiſant in love to a Lady, eſpecially to this, without ſome Diabolical Enchantment?

The Hiſtories of former ages cannot produce the like, I do not ſay in a Pope, for in that it is particular, but in any other Prince or Monarch.

I confeſs there hath been, and that a Tyrant, who hath delivered himſelf over to ſome Woman: but it was in the affections of his Soul, and not his Scepter. If he admitted her into his Bed, ſhe entred not into his Councels: if in private he adored her, he took no notice of her in publick: if he made a preſent of his perſon to her, he did not ſo of his Kingdom: if he permitted her to rule himſelf, yet not his people: and if he did go ſo far as to allow her ſome authority in publick, ſome power in his Throne, it was undoubtedly with ſo much caution at leaſt, that ſhe ſhould not be able to tranſgreſs the bounds of due reſpect to the regal Majeſty. But *Innocent*, on the other ſide, preſented *Donna Olimpia* not only with his heart and affections, but with his hand, perſon, and dominion; without reſtraint, limit or reſpect: and it is moſt aſſuredly true, that never any King gave ſo much

power to his Wife, nor any Queen Regent commanded her Councels with ſo much authority, as *Donna Olimpia* had uſurped unto her ſelf both over Pope, Councel, and People.

Such was the imperiouſneſs of this Lady, that ſhe endevoured to null the Decrees of the Church, and did in effect ſo ſhake them, reducing what former Popes had ordained to that degree, that all men apprehended a Schiſm in the Church. And truly one would think it were Schiſm enough to ſee a Lady and the Pope change places. A thouſand examples might be brought of the unheard-of power of *Donna Olimpia:* but that they are ſuch as would more offend the ears than ſatisfie the curioſity of any man. I will therefore conclude all in one, both for brevity and civilities ſake.

Donna Olimpia had a Nephew (who is yet alive) one of her Brothers

thers Sons, about eighteen years of age, of a ſheepiſh look, no preſence or aſpect of a man, wholly unexperienced in the world, a great Dunce, uncapable of impreſſion, not able to entertain diſcourſe, ill made and worſe ſpoken, addicted only to ſuch recreations as ſuit with mean and low Spirits. This creature with much adoe was once brought before the Pope, who turning to *Donna Olimpia* that had introduced him, ſaid, *I beſeech you Siſter let him come no nearer, for he is ten times uglier than my ſelf.* For all this, through the importunity of the Aunt, he made him Cardinal at Eighteen years old, not only to the wonder of the Court, but all Chriſtendom. And this is Cardinal *Maldachini*, who in his viſits that he either gives or receives always makes uſe of a ſet form of Complements, which he hath got by heart; and if you put him out of his road, he never fails to talk non-

ſenſe. Juſt about the ſame time at *Rome* the Statue of *Marforio* was hid by a Palace that was built about it: upon which there were a thouſand Paſquils made; among which I remember one was,

Take it not ſo to heart Paſquino,
Your Companion is Maldachino.

And truly this Cardinal is and will be the Carneval or Jack-pudding of the Apoſtolick Colledge, the Churches ſcandal and the reproach of the Court. The inſtructions that *Donna Olimpia* his Aunt gave him, that he ſhould keep Learned men in his Family, was of ſmall uſe to him, who had not wit enough to make any benefit by their converſation. Nor wanted this Lady cruelty: for ſhe was the cauſe of *Maſcambruno*'s execution, and of divers others, out of whom, when ſhe had drawn what money ſhe could in their life-time, ſhe hoped for more by their Death. Nay, ſhe took away the Datary from Cardinal

Cardinal *Cecchini*, and uſed *Palotta* ſo ill, that he would often ſay he had rather be in a Cloiſter liable to the impertinence of a Monk, than in *Rome* under the Tyranny of *Donna Olimpia.*

So did this Lady govern the Court, that *Panzirolo* made it his buſineſs with the Pope to make him underſtand the complaints of all the Embaſſadors, to find the Court without ſome Miniſter to convey their addreſſes to his Holineſs; being concerned that they muſt ſtill be forced upon all occaſions to treat immediately with the Pope, who would never give them a good nay, or a bad yea; that is, an anſwer to any purpoſe. At laſt, weary, as I ſuppoſe, of the continual importunities of his Siſter-in-law, and the taking upon him all Audiences, not having allowed himſelf hitherto that aſſiſtance his Predeceſſors always thought requiſite, he hearkened to advice.

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The place the Title of Cardinal-Patron carries along with it (which is never conferred but upon a Nephew) is very considerable, and of equal weight of honour and business.

When the Pope is indisposed, or hath a mind to be private, he receives the Embassadors; with whom he hath power to treat, but to resolve nothing; though indeed *Gregory* the Fifteenth referred all to his Nephew. Besides, he subscribes the Letters of the *Nuntii Legats*, Governours of Provinces, Presides in the Councel of State; and in short, all that ought to come before the Pope passes thorough his hands. As yet this help was wanting to *Innocent*, who through his languishing condition had great need of it, as being very troublesome to the Embassadors that had to do with him.

Therefore, to ease himself of business, he held conference with *Panzirolo*, which likewise set his Nephews

phews all a work. Many were propoſed, and ſtill thwarted by *Donna Olimpia*, to preſerve her own intereſt, though ſhe ever ſeemed willing, and at laſt through the urgency of affairs was ſo upon condition it were one wholly at her beck. Cardinal *Albergati* was firſt thought on, who calls himſelf by the Title of Cardinal *Ludoviſio*. This the Prince *Ludoviſio* puſhed earneſtly forwards, as being deſirous, ſince he had none himſelf, to have one ſo near of blood to him in publick employment: But his Brothers ignorance and ſimplicity in private affairs much more in in publick, procured him the Negative. Next was brought up Father *Fabio Albergati*, the Cardinals Brother, a Jeſuit: but the Pope declared he would not aggrandize one houſe with the advancement of three Brothers. At laſt, after long debate, to the wonder of all men, and the great diſatisfaction of the Popes kin-

kindred, was declared an adopted Nephew of another houſe, who with his Cardinalſhip had the name of *Panfilio* conferred upon him, and the title of Cardinal-Patron. But it will not be amiſs to give you the whole ſtory of it, as being an Election that did highly exaſperate *Donna Olimpia*, who inveighed moſt furiouſly againſt the promoter of this buſineſs.

This new Cardinal may be reckoned amongſt the moſt unexpected prodigies of fortune for theſe many Ages. For without any relation of blood to the Pope, without merit, nay void of all endowments that ſhould render a man eſtimable in the Court of *Rome*, not having the leaſt familiarity with the Pope, only known to him by ſight; was for all this (not the leaſt ſuſpected of it) advanced to be Cardinal Nephew, as if he had been of the bloud of the *Panfilii*. He had no other qualification for ſo eminent a place, but the extra-

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ction from a truly noble Family, which notwithſtanding was ſo deeply engaged in debts that it ſunk every day. His name was *Camillo Aſtalli*, of twenty ſeven years of age, of a gentile Garb and addreſs, and good qualities enough to advance him to a Biſhoprick, but no farther. That which added to the Courts wonder, was to ſee one raiſed to ſo important a preferment for the aſſiſtance of the Pope in the moſt weighty matters of State and Politick affairs; who was to ſeek in all ſorts of Politicks for want of practice in buſineſſes of that nature, which never came in his way till now. The introduction that he had by means of his charge at *Rome*, came through the affinity the Marquiſs his Brother had contracted by marrying the Niece of *Donna Olimpia*; who made it her buſineſs to look after honour and preferment for the advance of a ſtrange Family now by Marriage become

become her own, as esteeming her self not in so splendid a condition as was fit for a Pope's Kinswoman. And what encouraged her the more to be solicitous, was the consideration of the slender portion she went off with, counting the rest upon the expectations so near an affinity with the Pope must needs promise: though indeed it had proved a bait that had gulled many, and made them reckon without their Host. However the House of *Astalli* had great good luck to ally themselves with *Donna Olimpia*. For howbeit they wanted not for Nobility, yet had they no Estate to maintain it; besides that the greatest share of what remained was by the connivance of *Donna Olimpia* layed out upon a Clerk of the Chambers place; upon which the whole Family of *Astalli* relyed; nor had they had that to trust to without her advice. And indeed it succeeded well with him, who had by

by that means a free addreſs to the Court, together with the relation his Brother had contracted with *Donna Olimpia*, beſides that the place was very Honorable. He applyed himſelf to court Cardinal *Panzirolo* in the higheſt manner, and he did wiſely in it: for he plainly ſaw next to *Donna Olimpia*, he had the greateſt power with the Pope. Fortune would have it ſo, that he found an equal return of kindneſs from the Cardinal, who gave himſelf up captive to certain modeſt and obſequious behaviours that appeared in this youth: however, againſt the Cardinal's uſual manner, who would never undertake to favour any body before the Pope; not out of any ill nature, but becauſe he found the Pope willing all favours ſhould proceed from *Donna Olimpia*. Nevertheleſs here it fell out otherwiſe: for *Panzirolo* had poſſeſſed the Pope ſo far with a good opinion of *Aſtalli*,

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repreſenting of him as a man fit for great employment; that he induced the Pope to be taken with the carriage of the young man. Afterwards, when they came to conſult how the Pope might be eaſed in the weight of buſineſs, there not being one of his Kindred found fit for ſo great an undertaking, and he having, through *Donna Olimpia's* perſwaſion, an utter averſion for them; *Panzirolo* was hearkened to, who had preferred his favourite before all other conſiderations.

This action was remarked by the Court of *Rome* for one of the moſt extraordinary that had appeared upon the Stage of *Rome* a long time.

However, they knew the Pope could not do otherwiſe: For though it was in his power to eaſe himſelf, by appointing Miniſters, to whom he might give what authority he pleaſed, without placing a perſon not qualified for it in ſo eminent a degree, which

which must oblige him to provide all necessaries for a Nephew, *Astalli* being wholly unfurnished; yet here lay the difficulty, that whereas the main design of the Pope in this, was to remit the Audiences and Negotiations of Embassadours to him, and the discussion of all Intrigues; and the Embassadours never used to treat with any under the title of Nephew, it was found requisite to advance *Astalli* to a Cardinalship. But before they would accept of Audience from him, the Embassadours would have it published thorough *Rome:* which was done, and the Pope declared him his Nephew, giving him the adoptive name of Cardinal *Panfilio*, and the title of Cardinal-Patron. By which Declaration, all difficulties being removed, the Embassadours disposed themselves to treat with this new Nephew, though not without distaste.

Many applyed themselves to a

ſtrict examination of this Affair: and what made them the more curious, was a ſtrong fancy, that it wholly proceeded from Cardinal *Panzirolo*. They conſidered therefore what motives carried him on, to bring ſuch a perſon upon the ſtage, who muſt of neceſſity eclipſe him and all his deliberations, by the conſpicuous degree he held above him. At laſt they diſcovered it to be a piece of great Cunning, and like the Product of *Panzirolo*. His main deſign was to weaken the inſolent authority of *Donna Olimpia*; which he thought impoſſible to work any other way, than by introducing a Nephew to the Pope's liking: and thus finding the Pope inclined to take that conrſe, he made it his buſineſs to effect it.

He knew moreover, that not only the power of *Donna Olimpia* would be diminiſhed by this, but his own augmented, as well aſſuring himſelf, the young man unexperienced in the

the Politicks, that he might not appear wholly ignorant before the Pope, would undertake nothing without his advice: and thus ſhould he have the abſolute diſpoſe of Court Affairs, at leaſt for ſome time. They will likewiſe have it, that *Panzirolo* had another deſign deeper than all this; that is, by this means when the Pope dyed, as he was one that flew at all, he imagined to compaſs his ends more readily: For he looked upon it as a very fair occaſion, by having raiſed this young man to ſo high a preferment; who would no doubt be ſo mindful of the good turn, that in gratitude to him, he would ſeek all means of return by aſſiſting him in the Election to Saint *Peter's* Chair, being pretty confident already of the *Barbarines* and the *Spaniards*.

But he gained not more (leſs perchance) upon the young man's affections, than he did upon the hatred of the Popes Kindred and Rela-

tions : For hardly was it known (being ſo ſecretly carried, that *Donna Olimpia* never miſtruſted the leaſt till it was done) but jealouſies multiplyed immediately, and bitterneſs againſt both promoter and promoted, that ſo eminent a Favour ſhould be conferred upon a ſtrange Family. The affections of the Pope were no ſooner won towards this adoptive Nephew, but they took deep root preſently; ſo that he did all for the making him conſiderably great to his Place, which tended very much to the leſſening the Houſe of *Panfilio*. Hence proceeded fierce exaſperations againſt *Panzirolo*, as the chief Engine of this miſchief. Principally *Donna Olimpia*, who uſed to have account of all the State myſteries at Court, and now ſeeing her ſelf clearly wiped of that intereſt, was ſeverely netled, thundring out nothing but fury and diſdain againſt *Panzirolo*, taxing him for a Villain and a Tray-

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tor, not forbearing her invectives (through the confidence ſhe had with him) in the Pope's own preſence.

Innocent however employed this Nephew, committing to his charge the Affairs of his own Houſe, and the adminiſtration of the additional Fortune to the Primogeniture of the Houſe of *Panfilio*, as knowing him fit for ſuch a buſineſs. And this helped to make the Bloud of Prince *Camillo* boil higher, who was the true Nephew of the Pope: being upbraided thereby, as one that underſtood not how to manage his own Affairs, ſometimes with ſuſpition of his honeſty.

This Cardinal-Patron gave Audience to the Embaſſadors and Miniſters of Princes, with great Patience and civility, as likewiſe to Courtiers and other particular men, who not having eaſie acceſs to the Pope themſelves, had their recourſe to him to mediate for them. Nevertheleſs, this

was but a ſeeming ſatisfaction in the general: For to particular buſineſs of importance he never gave other anſwer, than that he would relate it to his Holineſs; nor upon the relation made any other report, than that the buſineſs would be taken into conſideration; which in the language of the Court of *Rome*, is as much as to ſay, there would little or nothing be done in it.

The Pope communicated all State Affairs to this Cardinal, not in order to lay the weight of them upon him, but to train him up to Buſineſs. For he would not conſide too much in ſo raw a States-man leſt he ſhould fail him. So that he had no more of Cardinal-Patron than the Title, and Honour (which was yet of no ſmall conſequence) to ſubſcribe the Letters of the Nuntii, Legats, Governours of Provinces, and other of the moſt conſiderable Officers under the Eccleſiaſticall State. For ſmall mat-

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ters and diſpatches of Letters, they were drawn up by a young man, who was bred Secretary under *Panzirolo*, and by him brought into this Office, as well deſerving it for his aptneſs in buſineſs.

To comfort a little the checked ambition of *Donna Olimpia*, and to aſſwage her wrath, the Pope would have the Cardinal viſit the ſaid Lady ſometimes, and impart to her ſuch Affairs as he thought beſt. But he for the moſt part told her all, as being of little value to him; ſince neither he nor ſhe were to determine them. The Pope's Relations durſt not ſeem diſſatisfied with the Cardinal-Patron's advance; leſt they ſhould be thought to queſtion his judgement, who had made ſo free a Choice: beſides that the Cardinal always ſhewed himſelf unwilling to oppoſe himſelf to, or promote any thing that might give diſlike to the Relations of his chief Benefactour: for

all that, the jealouſie of the one, and inveteracy of the other, burnt inwardly like hot embers.

The advice of this new Nephew was hardly diſperſed over Chriſtendom, before there appeared upon the Stage a Scene, which many did expect would follow the Declaration of a Cardinal Patron.

The Pope was reſolved to diſmiſs *Donna Olimpia* the Court, but with good words, as unwilling to diſoblige her Ladyſhip, who was the Idol of his heart. Nay, they ſay, he did it with tears in his eyes, and the greateſt regret imaginable: but yet he did it. He gave order therefore that *Donna Olimpia* ſhould not only withdraw her ſelf from all his Affairs, Publike or Private, Temporal or Spiritual: but for the future ſhould not preſume to come into his preſence, or under the roof of his Palace. Which Injunction was ſomething mitigated the next day, permiſſion

miſſion being given (ſuch is the force of Love) to come *Incognita* and confer with him, which was denied to thoſe of his own Blood. This accident, as it was thought unpracticable, upon conſideration of old ſcores, ſo after it came to paſs, forced applauſe, even from thoſe that hated all who were concerned in it.

The Reaſon that moved the Pope to take up ſuch a Reſolution was diverſly alledged. Some would have it that the little Rallies that run daily about the Court, in every corner, ſtill playing upon the ſtrange courſe of Government, was taken: which Rumours were either concealed from, or at leaſt diſſembled by the Pope hitherto; not being reſolved what courſe was beſt to take to ſtop the mouths, not only of the Court, but of all Chriſtendom; and particularly of the Proteſtants in the Northern parts, who made it the greateſt part of their divertiſement

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to jeſt upon *Donna Olimpia* and the Pope: ſo that they did not only take the liberty of treating both the one and the other with ſharp and biting diſcourſe, but a diſdainful meen evidenced how firmly they believed what they ſaid.

One day amongſt the reſt was preſented to the Pope a Gold Medal, of about ten Piſtols value, by the Cardinal Patron: who told him he had received in a Letter ſome Satyrs without a Name, and ſo ſhewed them to him. Upon the one ſide of this Medal was *Donna Olimpia*, with the Pope's Mitre upon her head, and Saint *Peter's* Keys in her hand; on the reverſe, the Pope, with his head dreſſed up like a Lady, and a Spindle and Rock in his hand: a thing that provoked much to the ruine of *Donna Olimpia*. It is very certain, the Cardinal ought not to have diſcovered it, for fear of diſcompoſing his Holineſs: but he would

would ſhew it to help to the deſtruction of *Donna Olimpia*, who ſtood in competition with him. Thus under colour of doing his duty, played he his own game.

It was ſaid the Pope reſolved to baniſh his Siſter-in-law from the Court, upon advice of a certain Comedy that was repreſented in *London* before *Cromwell*, called *The Marriage of the Pope*; in which amongſt other things was brought in, for ſport to the *Engliſh*, and reproach to the Papiſts, that the Pope deſiring to marry *Donna Olimpia*, and ſhe refuſing him, ſaying, ſhe would not have ſuch a beaſtly ugly fellow for her Husband: to win her, offered her a Key, which ſhe refuſed as too mean a Preſent; upon which, being reſolved to have her, he offered her both Keys. But you muſt know firſt, that when he preſented her with one, *Donna Olimpia* asked him whether it was the Key of Hell or Paradiſe;

diſe; to which the Pope anſwering, it was that of Paradiſe; ſhe replyed, Then give me the other too: for you ſhall not think to have it in your hands when you are weary of me, to command the Devil to take me away. Thus when he had preſented her with both Keys, the Wedding was kept and concluded with a Ball of Monks and Nuns, who took great ſatisfaction to think that it might come to their turn one day to be married likewiſe.

It was thought by many, that what helped to widen this breach, was a cloſe diſcourſe the Emperour had with the Nuntio *Melzi*, that was at *Vienna*, who was condoling with this Prelate the fatal ſtroke he had received from *Rome*, by the concluſion of Peace with the *Swedes*, without regard had to the Catholick Religion; in defenſe of which, they ought always to have ſtood upon their Guard. In ſo much, that the

Emperour

Emperour could not refrain a ſharp reſentment of it to the Nuntio, telling him, *The Pope hath a brave time of it, Signor Nuntio, for* Donna Olimpia *to claw his Pate to make him ſleep:* and ſo ſaid no more. *Melzi* after this being come back to *Rome*, and urged by the Pope to relate clearly what the Emperour had ſaid upon the receipt of his Letter about the accompt of the Peace with *Sweden*, failed not to repeat it word for word. This a little wakened the Pope, and made him reflect, that if he had ſuch checks from Catholick Princes, ſuch as is the *Auſtrian* Family in *Germany*, ſurely he muſt expect much more ſevere from thoſe that deteſted his Uſurpation.

All theſe things were enough not only to ſhake, but utterly to have ruined *Donna Olimpia.* And no doubt they made deep impreſſion in the Pope, however that ſome will not have it ſo, but that it was all a

Fable

Fable of the Cardinals preſenting him with the Medal. But be it ſo, it is moſt aſſuredly true, that not one but many, both of Gold and Silver were diſperſed about *Rome:* and probably, he that found a way to coyn them, was ingenious enough to find a way alſo to convey them to the Pope. Others will have it, that it was as little true, that ſuch a Play was acted before *Cromwell*, as we ſpoke of above. We will grant therefore, that it was a meer Invention of the people of *Rome*, and by conſequence much worſe: for it muſt needs be a greater mortification to ſee his own Subjects take the part of Hereticks againſt him. Neither could he remain ignorant of ought, ſince thoſe that breathed out nothing but deſtruction to *Donna Olimpia*, would leave no ſtone unturned to make known to the Pope any thing of this nature.

The general opinion is, that *Panziro'o*

zirolo was the contriver and inſtrument of this fall. For as he ſtood always at the Pope's elbow, to wait an occaſion of overthrowing that great confidence and power *Donna Olimpia* had: this was offered him, at that very time he was taxed by the ſame Lady for a Traytor, one that had undermined the whole houſe of *Panfilio*, by preferring to the Pope's favour one that was a ſtranger to them. *Panzirolo* therefore lets fall theſe expreſſions: That he was much concerned for the misfortune of the great Princes, that they ſhould be the laſt in reſenting the wrong was done them, and the affronts put upon that majeſty they held, putting all up with that patience as ſeemed monſtrous to the world. Thus with a dryneſs which was natural to him, aggravating the circumſtances, he purſued the ſeries of his diſcourſe, and preſſed it ſo home to the Pope, that (being in that

that diſtraction, & reflecting upon the outcries and noiſe the whole world made, together with the inſufferable importunity of this Lady, for her too great preſumption beyond the bounds of common modeſty) he forbad her his preſence and the Court.

There are thoſe that are verily perſwaded, what contributed much to the diſgrace of *Donna Olimpia*, was the diſcourſe of a Royal Embaſſadour, who endevoured ſlily to ſubvert this Lady, not out of any private grudge, but that he was diſpleaſed as a *Roman* Catholick, to hear ſo many diſcourſes, to the great ſcandal of the Church. Talking therefore one day with the Pope, and being denyed his Requeſt, he made bold to tell him, *Perchance what your Holineſs will not do for my King, you will do it for your* Donna Olimpia, *to whom I now go to make my addreſs.* This he ſpoke betwixt Jeſt and Earneſt, but ſo, that it cut the

Pope

Pope to the very heart. However he ſeemed not to take notice of any thing, but replyed in general terms: That not the whole World, much leſs *Donna Olimpia*, ſhould remove him from a juſt Reſolution. The Embaſſadour gone: he ſtrook his hand upon the Table, and was heard to ſay, *The Devil take all Women, and thoſe that prefer them thus.* An evident token of the Popes diſpleaſure, that his Authority ſhould be made ſo ridiculous through means of this Lady. And it is moſt certain, the Papal Authority was never ſo little reſpected, as it was in the time of *Innocent*. The Catholick Princes would often make ſport at this new mode of Female Government, becauſe they ſaw the Proteſtant Princes laugh at it. Nay, theſe would at times bewail the miſerable condition of the *Romiſh* Church, becauſe they ſaw the Catholicks themſelves do ſo. Who indeed could forbear

tears, to ſee that there was no more ſending of Embaſſadours to the Pope, but to *Donna Olimpia*; no more to the Court, but to a Ladies Palace!

One Prince among the reſt, of the moſt conſiderable in *Europe*, ſent an Extraordinary Embaſſadour to *Rome*; to whom, after having given him his neceſſary Inſtructions, he gave in charge at his laſt farewell, *If by the application of our Authority, you can make no impreſſion upon the Pope, endevour to gain him by bribing* Donna Olimpia *to uſe her power.* And it was a reaſonable advice: for I know by one of the greateſt Confidents of the Embaſſadours Retinue, that the Buſineſs had not been obtained without great expence.

Cardinal *Aſtalli*, after the death of *Innocent*, hath ſaid in ſome companies: that nothing was ſaid of *Donna Olimpia* in any part of *Europe*, that the Pope knew not of; ſeeming

ing ever to take little notice, and to ſlight all, as only an effect of malice. Thus he bore it out before others, though he himſelf was pricked, as it was evidently ſeen by the alteration of his countenance. But upon advice of a Sermon preached at *Geneva*, wherein *Donna Olimpia* was mentioned: he was ſo highly diſturbed, that he ate nothing for two days together, but fretted and vented his choler upon whomſoever was with him. Now he was informed of this Story thus.

The Pope's Nuntio's Secretary that was at *Paris*, by order of his Maſter returned to *Rome*, to confer with his Holineſs about ſome Affair, that could not well be committed to a Letter. So ſoon as he had delivered his Errand, and would have taken his leave for the firſt time: the Pope began to enquire of him concerning his Voyage, and by what way he came from *Paris* to *Rome*;

upon which the Secretary anſwered, that he paſſed *Incognito* through *Geneva*; and what ſays that rebellious City of Us? reply's the Pope. The Secretary told him, You can expect no goodneſs, moſt holy Father, from your Enemies. Well, but (ſayes the Pope) what ſay they? Then the Secretary thinking himſelf obliged to tell the truth, and not to lye in the Pope's preſence, or whether he had ſome other Reaſon for it: thus told him: *Moſt holy Father, I ſtayed but one day in this City, where I obſerved a greater Civility in the People, than I imagined to have found. But the more ſatisfaction I received from without, the greater was my inward mortification: for having the curioſity to obſerve the religious Rites of theſe People, ſo much contrary to thoſe of* Rome: *I got my Hoſt to carry me to their Church, juſt at Sermon time. My Hoſt told me afterwards the ſecond Preacher was a* Luccheſe,

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of the noble Family of the Diodati, *and was indeed a great Oratour. This perſon, whether he knew any thing of my coming, or that he did it in order to the diſcourſe he had formerly propoſed to himſelf, took for his Text the words of Saint* Paul *written to* Timothy, Suffer not a Woman to Teach, neither to rule over the Man. *Upon which he enlarged, to the great reproach of our Church of* Rome, *that ſuffered it ſelf to be governed by a Woman.* This was one of the moſt fatal ſtrokes. I cannot tell whether the thing was really ſo, or that the Secretary invented it; let it ſuffice that Cardinal *Aſtalli* confeſſeth, this Information took ſo ſtrongly with the Pope, that he verily believes he took up his Reſolution at this inſtant to baniſh *Donna Olimpia* from the Court.

Nevertheleſs, he that will conſider a little cloſer the Reaſon of this diſgrace, will find that the Pope

did not this out of diſlike or hatred to this Lady, but rather out of extreme kindneſs, that is, to take off the revilings of ſo many as ſet themſelves againſt her, and to appeaſe the murmurings; and too, beſides, out of ſome politick conſideration, that he might be taken for a zealous Pope. But it was impoſſible all the world ſhould be able to perſwade that a Veſſel of ſowre Vineager was become Moſcadel; and truly it is hard to take a falſe Work out of a peece of Cloth, without ſpoiling the whole.

That the Pope was not diſtaſted, is no difficult matter to believe: For the Evening before he came to this Reſult, he ſent to call *Donna Olimpia*, with whom he held conference four or five hours in private: and it is very truly thought the Pope adviſed her to take the diſgrace of baniſhment for a little while from the Court patiently, till ſuch time as the malicious

cious mouths ſhould be ſtopped; and then he promiſed to call her back again, as in effect he did. Thus the Pope did, as Mothers that threaten their Children, all the while they hold them in their arms. He commands *Donna Olimpia* with a loud Voice, that upon any pretence whatever, ſhe appear not before him: but afterwards tells her in her Ear, ſhe may come privately; ſo he diſcards her and calls her at the ſame time, and forbids her to be ſeen in publick, that he may have her the more to himſelf.

But the good Man's Plot would not take: For in ſtead of ſtopping the mouths of the malicious, it made them ten times worſe: and the retirement of *Donna Olimpia* to her Palace, and withdrawing from publick view, made them report about *Rome*, that the Pope was become Jealous in his old age: and this Rumour took the more eaſily, becauſe

for the more private conveyance of the matter, ſhe went to him for the moſt part by Night.

Now behold all the Pope's Indignation againſt *Donna Olimpia*, and all the diſgrace ſhe underwent, during her Brother-in-law's Reign: which was to ſee him by Night and not by Day, procure Favours in private, and not in publick, and to go to the *Vatican* for her own Intereſt, and not for that of others.

And the truth is, this Lady reflecting upon what was paſt, and what would be moſt for her Credit, did for ſome days forbear to appear publickly: but all this while bated not an Ace of her ſatisfaction. For though in appearance ſhe ſeemed a little to be eclipſed: yet made ſhe all good in ſecret, having Audience of his Holineſs *incognita*, as I told you before.

In this very nick of time that the Pope appeared to cool in his affections

ctions towards *Donna Olimpia*, he began to grow kind towards his Family and Blood. Who, after three years Baniſhment, at the Inſtigation and Directions of the Siſter-in-law, were both Prince *Camillo* and his Lady (to take off the blemiſh of Unnatural) called into Favour again, upon condition they would expect no great matter of kindneſs from their Uncle, who was diſpoſed to oblige no body but *Donna Olimpia*.

There was no body in *Rome* that did not come to welcome them home; and that not ſo much for the Prince, as the Princeſs her ſake, who deſerved to be pityed for many Reaſons, having received the higheſt Injuries, and with ſo groſs Affronts to her perſon, not only from the Pope and her hair-brain'd Mother-in-law, but even from her own Husband; that after Hony-moon was over, he ſeemed to cool in his affections, though to ſo fair and noble

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an Object. However, being returned into Favour and good Reception with the Pope, though they lived not very happily together, yet the Princeſs carried it ſo prudently, as to wink at all faults. But hardly was *Innocent* dead, when all broke out to the prejudice of them both, as giving occaſion to the World to put diverſe Interpretations upon the Rupture.

The little underſtanding between this unhappy couple fortified the Opinion of *Donna Olimpia*. Who, when told of the Match, declared not only to the Pope, but to every body, that her Son had no inclination at all to marry, but that the Princeſs by little tricks and deluſions had inveagled him to quit his Cardinals Cap, and marry her, in hopes of wearing the Breeches. And this, upon the diſcovery of their differences, got credit every where.

Mean while Cardinal *Aſtalli*, I ſhould

ſhould ſay, Cardinal *Panfilio* enjoyed ſo abſolutely all the Prerogatives, the other Nephews ſhould have had by right of Blood; that the Pope ſeemed to be kinder to him every day than other. Notwithſtanding there was no exceſs in Favours, as not being in his nature. Indeed the Cardinal by *Panzirolo*'s Inſtructions never asked any thing, that he was not moſt ſure before-hand would pleaſe the Pope. So that many times (this the Cardinal ſays now) the Pope himſelf would complain of him, that he was ſo modeſt in requeſting of Favours, that he aſked not thoſe which of abſolute neceſſity were to be allowed him.

The true Relations of the Pope all this while could take no ſatisfaction to ſee one of a ſtrange Houſe ſo highly in the Pope's favour: and they who ſhould be ſo near kept, at ſuch a diſtance. The very ſight of this Cardinal did afflict them to that de-

degree; as by their good wills, they would never come in his company, at leaſt would never ſeek it. For in deſpite of them they were forced to ſee him, and I may ſay, be beholding to him upon ſeveral occaſions. Yet they bore not ſo great a malice to this adopted Nephew, as to *Panzirolo*: whoſe deſtruction they plotted Night and Day: imagining perchance by his Fall, they ſhould lay the way open to the overthrow of his Creature.

They met perpetually at *Donna Olimpia's* Houſe in Conſultation, how to bring down *Panzirolo*. They ſpent whole Nights many times in queſt of this point, each Relation employing his beſt Rhetorick, and endevouring to deviſe Cabals, and lay all deſigns for the ruine of this Perſon: but every thing fell out to their diſſatisfaction, as not being able to find out a means to execute their Propoſitions. They were vexed

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to the heart, to see all their Designs vanish into a wish; insomuch that some took their Bed upon it for very madness. To lessen him in the Pope's opinion, was not difficult, but impossible: for his credit with him had taken too deep root. In fine, they were never able to hurt such a man, that always walked with his eyes open, and upon even ground. *Panzirolo* had Wit enough to keep well with the Pope, though his frequent Indispositions made him scarce able to keep upon his Feet. The continual Conferences he was used to hold with the Pope till Mid-night, had so much broke him, that one would have thought him unfit for any undertaking: and yet held up so well against the Injuries of Time and Wiles of his Adversaries, that he made them despair so much as of thinking to attempt the least.

But what the malice of the Pope's Kindred could not effect, Death's dart

dart performed: *Panzirolo* dies by the courſe of nature, while others are endevouring to make him die in the Pope's Favour. This pleaſed *Donna Olimpia* ſo highly, that the very ſame day ſhe marched about *Rome* in triumph. To the firſt that brought her the News, ſhe anſwered, *He is dead and I live.* The Pope took his Death very much to heart, and had the Embaſſadours come to condole him, not being able to overcome his grief for many days. But above all, the Cardinal-Patron lamented his loſs, his eyes guſhing out with tears, as ominous to that miſchief afterwards befell him.

The day after the Death of this Cardinal, the Pope's Relations had another Conſultation among themſelves in *Donna Olimpia's* Houſe, in which they thought good in no way to attempt the leſſening of the Cardinal-Patron his Authority, or rather his Perſon; but firſt to work the

the Pope out of all good conceit of the memory of *Panzirolo:* For they could not expect, while the Pope retained any good opinion of him, that he ſhould ever be perſwaded to entertain an ill thought of his Creature.

They all therefore ſet themſelves to this Work. Particularly *Donna Olimpia*, as moſt concerned, left no ſtone unturned. At laſt they had their will: and though in his life time they were never able to put him out of Favour; nevertheleſs, after his Death they prevailed to make him be forgot of the Pope, who laid aſide all favourable thoughts he had of him during his life.

An evident token of this, are the Complaints which have been heard from the Pope's own mouth, againſt the Conduct of *Panzirolo:* ſlighting all Buſineſſes that were left by the ſaid Cardinal, nay even to a bitter refuſal

refusal of whatever savoured of his memory. Likewise in any Business of small importance (which shewed the nature of the Beast) that *Panzirolo* had left in his Will to desire to be passed, he would protest against it. Many times treating with Embassadours and others, he would say he was cheated by *Panzirolo*. This discovered the unstable nature of the Pope, who never could keep to one Resolution: but did things not as they ought to be, but upon perswasion.

After the Death of *Panzirolo*, *Donna Olimpia* frequented the Court a little more, but *incognita*: beginning by degrees to repossess her self of her first station, and truly she made large steps. The other Relations, that is, Prince *Panfilio*, Prince *Ludovisio*, and Prince *Justiniani*, were pretty well in Favour, being kindly received so far as cost nothing. The Princess of *Rossano* thought

thought ſtrange that her Huſband was not treated in a more particular manner than the reſt of the Nephews; as being the onely perſon among them, that was of the Blood of the *Panfilii:* Though in truth he had no reaſon to complain much of this, ſince how partially ſoever he carried himſelf amongſt his Nephews, it was but in appearance: For he took order, and would have it ſo; that in the uncloſing of his Fiſt, as he uſed to call it, all the moſt conſiderable benefits ſhould go to Prince *Camillo:* and this he made his whole Buſineſs, and employed the Cardinal-Patron in it too; thus did he give the Subſtance to one, and to the reſt the Shadow. One day as he was buſie in aſſigning I know not what advantage, he was demanded by the Cardinal-Patron, whether he would have it given to Prince *Panfilio*, or Prince *Ludoviſio*; to which the Pope anſwered, *Know you not that near is*

my Doublet, but nearer is my Shirt? Another time being aſked by the ſame perſon, which of theſe three Nephews he had the greateſt kindneſs for: he replyed without demur, We love Prince *Juſtiniani* for his Wifes ſake, Prince *Ludoviſio* becauſe he is a good Prince, and Prince *Panfilio* becauſe he is of our Blood.

He gave *Donna Olimpia* to underſtand ſeveral times, but not without a promiſe to reſtore her to to all her former power, that it was his abſolute Will, that ſhe ſhould leave all, or the greateſt part of her Acquiſitions to her Son. And he had reaſon: for he well knew the Ladies inclinations were more to her Daughters. Therefore the Pope admired ſhe ſhould think of beſtowing her Eſtate out of the Houſe of *Panfilio*, which was compriſed in that one perſon, who was his Nephew and her Son: nay, he could hardly believe it poſſible, ſhe ſhould contribute

tribute ſooner to a half Family, than that which ſucceeded her in a direct Line.

Donna Olimpia found no ſmall reluctancy within her ſelf to do this. However, ſhe durſt not openly deny him, for fear he ſhould take it ill: knowing very well there was all the reaſon for it in the World; and that ſhe was tyed by all the Obligations of Gratitude to contribute that to the eſtabliſhing of the Houſe of *Panfilio*, under whoſe protection ſhe had gathered it. Upon which conſideration, ſhe promiſed to do all the Pope deſired: as well aſſured ſhe could leave her Daughters and Grand children enough beſides to make them defie the Devil and all his Works. Thus you may ſee it was no want of kindneſs on the Popes ſide, that made Prince *Panfilio* be baniſhed: but for the Reaſons I told you before, and the malice of the Mother, made him Guilty.

The Princeſs of *Roſſano* collogued with her Mother-in-law all ſhe could: but being againſt the grain of her generous temper, ſhe could not crouch ſo much as the others. She ſhewed her all reſpect indeed, yet without owning in the leaſt to have her dependance upon her: whereas on the other ſide, the reſt, when they ſaw her ſo great with the Pope, reſigned themſelves wholly up to her diſpoſal.

The Pope thought it impoſſible for him to ſubſiſt without *Donna Olimpia:* ſo that it was his daily diſcourſe to the Cardinal-Patron her commendations, calling her *a Lady of great Prudence.* The Cardinal, who ſaw himſelf deprived of *Panzirolo's* help, and perceiving the propenſity of the Pope towards this Lady, durſt not contradict him in the leaſt, but complyed with his Holineſs in the praiſe of *Donna Olimpia*, that he might not be guilty of his

his own ruine. Yet willingly he would not ſee her at Court, as jealous of his own Intereſt, when he ſaw what power he had: who was become more Miſtreſs than ever, both of the Court, Church, State and Pope. The Cardinal had the Honour to receive Embaſſadours: but ſtill they treated with the Pope and *Donna Olimpia.* At laſt, all private Viſits were laid aſide, and ſhe came in and out at pleaſure: the good man forgetting all the Paſquils and Stories that had paſſed about the World. But truly it was no wonder the Pope ſhould forget Reports; when he had forgot himſelf, and the honour of the Church.

By this time the Pope grown ſo old, that he was thought uncapable of undergoing his dominion longer. The Phyſitians, whom he naturally hated, diſcovered no other Diſeaſe in him, than that of Fourſcore Years, and the Gout, which by his excellent

Diet he had carryed of in his old Age. In the beginning off his Reign, he would not have a Phyſitian wait at his Table, according to the uſual cuſtom: but was diſſwaded from it by *Donna Olimpia*, that the Papal Majeſty might not ſeem to ſtand in need of help; though the cuſtom in this caſe, was more for Majeſty and Greatneſs, than for any neceſſity. His Phyſitian at laſt, after *Donna Olimpia* had adviſed him to it, prevailed with him in his latter days, not to diſturb his Head with any Buſineſs: but if he had a mind to live any longer, to put his Affairs into ſome other hands. So the Pope, out of a deſire to prolong his days, flung off all Care, both of Church and State, referring the firſt to certain Committees of Cardinals, and the other to *Donna Olimpia* with the Cardinal-Patron.

However, this Lady was not ſatisfied, as the Oracle of Policy, to give

give Law to State, Church and Court: but ſhe would diſpoſe of the Spirituality, as ſhe had done formerly: So that many times the Committees met at her houſe, before they went to their ordinary place of Conſultation. Though to ſay the truth, ſhe took cogniſance of nothing, but what might bring her in profit: remitting Caſes that meerly concerned Conſcience, to the Committees, as the Pope had ordained.

It muſt needs ſeem an incredible thing to any one that hears it, when I ſhall go about to deſcribe the Induſtry this Lady uſed in ſcraping up Wealth. But the truth is, ſhe ſaw the Pope in a declining condition, and her ſelf charged on all ſides with Children and Grand-children, obliged to leave the better half to her own Son, and yet reſolved to raiſe the reſt to a conſiderable fortune: ſo that the plentiful Revenue of the Church could not ſatisfie her unrea-

ſonable appetite. The perſecutions of the *Barbarini* made her ſuſpect, that after the Pope's Death ſhe ſhould not be wholly exempted from her ſhare in the like. She well knew the proper Inſtrument to qualifie ſuch a misfortune, would be ſtore of Money: And this ſhe was the rather induced to believe, by having ſeen the *Barbarini* perſecuted to the utmoſt by the Pope, their moſt inveterate Enemy, with a Sequeſtration upon all their Goods: and yet continue in Honour and Reputation, out of the meer force of a Bank they had provided againſt ſuch an Accident. Therefore ſhe made the more haſt to fill her Coffers, upon preſumption that it would fall more heavy upon her: becauſe ſhe had nothing elſe to truſt to, having no body to pity her. The Priſons were full of Innocents, and the Streets of Guilty: the one preventing their Confinement by a price,

price, and the other conſtrained to buy themſelves out of Priſon.

There was a Gentleman of *Rome*, who in confidence of his own integrity, ſwore that *Donna Olimpia* ſhould never touch any of his Money. Now, that he might never be obliged to make a Petition, he took his Son from a Clerks Office he was in: Yet could he not keep his Oath; for *Donna Olimpia* hearing of it, gave order to a certain Officer to make it his buſineſs to draw him into the Net. And he failed not to effect it: For he ordered a *Sbirro*, who engaged himſelf I know not how one day in a Conteſt with this Gentleman: upon which the poor Gentleman finding himſef undervalued ſo by a *Sbirro*, gave him a box on the Ear or two, and was carryed to Priſon for it, and arraigned for contempt of Juſtice, in ſtriking a publick Miniſter, and ſo condemned to die. Therefore, to ſave his Life,

Life, he was not only obliged to preſent *Donna Olimpia* with a Purſe, but likewiſe to pay a conſiderable ſum into the Exchequer.

This was the Lady that perſwaded the Pope in no wiſe to meddle with the Treaty of Peace between the Chriſtian Princes; that is, between the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*, upon whoſe agreement depended all the reſt.

Popes are uſed immediately after their Inſtallment, to diſpatch Nuntio's extraordinary to Princes, to ſollicite with all earneſtneſs an univerſal Peace, ſparing no pains or coſt to effect it. *Innocent*, contrary to all the reſt, was pleaſed to ſee them in pieces; laying aſide not only the conſideration of an Univerſal Father, but all good Policy.

It will not be from our purpoſe here to propoſe a pretty Caſe, ſomething relating to this. Two Porters were at Fiſty-cuffs one day about

ſome

ſome Difference that hapned between them, and it chanced to be under the Pope's Windows, where he was ſtanding at the ſame inſtant. Some there were that would have parted them; but the Pope forbad it, giving order they ſhould let them fight it out. They, according to the cuſtom of ſuch ſort of people, after having fought about half an hour, gave over of themſelves, and made Peace without any Interceſſion. Then the Pope turned to *Panzirolo* (who was living at that time, and ſtood by him) telling him, *ſo will the* French *and* Spaniard *do: when they are weary of beating one another, they will agree of themſelves without Help or Importunity of others.* And indeed he propheſied truly: for afterwards we ſaw them do ſo.

Hence we may gather how little a Friend the Pope was to Peace. But many excuſe him, by laying the fault upon *Donna Olimpia:* who coun-

counſelled the Pope to let them alone to themſelves, and ſave the charges of ſo many extraordinary Nuntio's; making ſure to her ſelf all that ſhould be ſaved upon that occaſion; and ſhe had her will.

The Pope's Nephews perceiving the avariee of this Lady, would not, in hopes of large ſhares at her Death, ſtop her Career, but rather furthered her in all ſhe ordered and diſpoſed. It was a wonderfull thing to ſee a Woman of Threeſcore years of Age toyl ſo night and day, treating with this and t'other, running up and down, without ever giving the leaſt appearance of being tyred, anſwering all that came to her in proper terms. Though whoever came empty handed, was neither welcome nor well looked upon.

How ſhall wee ſay *Donna Olimpia* governed her ſelf in regard to the Princes of Chriſtendom? It is certain this, they had all reaſon to commend

mend and bewail themſelves at the ſame time. For what partiality ſoever the Pope had for one more than another: *Donna Olimpia*, either out of fear of making Enemies at home, or being at too great expence, brought the good man not only to be Neuter, but to have ſuch an indifferency for even the moſt weighty Affairs of Princes: that whereas other Popes eſteemed it greatneſs to have the moſt important Affairs of Chriſtendom in their hands; *Innocent*, on the contrary, never thought he ſpent a day worſe, than when he was to give Audience to Embaſſadors. But why ſhould ſhe make the Pope ſo lazy? Why not rather did ſhe counſel him to attempt great matters for the advance of his Authority, Credit and Renown far and near? A Prince that will acquire a great name, muſt treat with all Princes, and thruſt himſelf into all Buſineſſes abroad. This was the courſe

courſe thoſe Popes obſerved that ſought the name of *Univerſal Father*. But *Innocent* was the only he, that took the courſe rather to be conſidered as a private Gentleman, than ſo great a Prince. And in truth, *Donna Olimpia* made him let ſlip the faireſt opportunities of immortalizing his Name, as it may be ever any Pope will have again. Had *Urban* been alive at the time of the Revolutions at *Naples* in the Year 1647. things had gone at another rate (and all for the better too) for the advantage of the Church. A Pope that will intereſt himſelf in all publick and particular concerns of Princes, carries a great Reputation and ſtroke in the World, it is true: but it is as true, that it cannot be done without great expence, as well in receiving as ſending of Errands. Wherefore it is no marvel if *Innocent*, contrary to all others, little regarded ſuch Honour: when he had

Donna

Donna Olimpia with him, who valued a hundred Crowns in her Purſe, more than the expectation of eternal Glory. But Popes muſt not often have ſuch Counſellors, if we would have Chriſtianity flouriſh.

The Emperour could procure no other help, than a few Indulgencies. So that, abandoned on every ſide, he was forced upon all diſadvantage to make up a Peace with the *Swede*, to the great loſs of the *Roman* Religion. The *Spaniards* had flat Denyals upon all Demands, to the grief and complaint of *Conte d' Cgnatte* and *il Duca dell' Infantado*, who were Embaſſadours at *Rome* in the time of *Innocent*, and who received groſs affronts from that Court. The *French* required nothing, keeping off like outlawed perſons for ſome time; and not without grounds: For if the *Spaniard* that had made him Pope, could obtain nothing, the *French* certainly had ſmall reaſon to

expect

expect favour, who had oppoſed his Election: So that they did well to ſtand off. The Duke of *Savoy*, during the time of *Innocent*, pretended to forget thoſe diſtaſtes, which had formerly provoked the Duke and Dutcheſs to withdraw their Embaſſadour from *Rome:* but they were much out, if they thought to get any thing by it; unleſs you would ſay the Duke got enough for the time he had to enjoy it. However *Donna Olimpia* had a great deſire to ſee a Cardinals Cap promiſed to one of Prince *Tomaſo*'s Sons, that ſhe might as much as poſſible diſappoint a Houſe ſo ill affected to hers, of Heirs. This the Pope yielded to: but becauſe neither Duke nor Dutcheſs had a hand in it, it fell to nothing. The Duke thought (and will ever, and not without reaſon) that the greatneſs of his Houſe did an honour to the Colledge of Cardinals: and therefore pretended without more adoe,

that

that his Blood gave him title enough to ſuch a Creation. And the rather, ſince Cardinal *Mauritio* had out of a Capricio againſt the Church, renounced his Cap, the Church ought to reſtore it to the Nephew as due. But theſe conſiderations took no place in *Rome*, where Cardinals are made according to their inclination to the Intereſt of the preſent Pope. They ſay her Royal Highneſs ſtopped a Prelates mouth, that propoſed this Buſineſs to her, with this anſwer, *A Hat of a Ladies preſenting, will be to heavy for the Head:* intimating thereby, that ſhe would not be beholding to *Donna Olimpia*; taxing the Pope at the ſame time of Effeminacy.

The great Duke was not ſo ſcrupulous, after he had been ſo often diſobliged. For when he found them ſtalled in the making up the Agreement with the Duke of *Parma*, he ſtruck in with the opportu-

nity that offered it ſelf, procuring another red Hat to his Family, that his party might be the ſtronger againſt the next Election. He never enquired whether *Donna Olimpia* or the Pope gave it. And herein he did wiſely: as indeed the great Dukes know how to deal with the Prieſts, being their near Neighbours; and make no great matter of their Affronts.

Donna Olimpia carried her ſelf in a middle way towards the *Venetians*. For as ſhe knew that Commonwealth was rather of the receiving, than the giving hand with the Church: ſo ſhe well underſtood nothing kept them off better, than obſerving a diſtance. Yet towards her latter end ſhe expreſſed great kindneſs to them: in hopes of protection, if any misfortune (that is Perſecution) ſhould attend her. The *Genoeſe*, who promiſed themſelves great matters in *Urban*'s time, in order to

their

their Title, and Royal Prerogatives, upon the compliance of the *Barbarini* with their deſire, out of hopes of getting a ſum of Money; when they ſaw how they were deluded by them, applyed themſelves to *Innocent:* but they found he would not hear on that Ear, not ſo much as to put them in the Hopes that *Urban* did. Deſponding therefore, they called home their Embaſſadour, who lay at *Rome* for that purpoſe. Nevertheleſs, being reſolved to compaſs their ends, after having withdrawn their Miniſter from *Rome* for ſome time: they ſent him again, with greater aſſurance from *Donna Olimpia's* ſide, than formerly they had from the Pope. So they gave Inſtructions to their Embaſſadour to treat with this Lady: who, as ſome will have it, was the perſon that put the *Genoueſe* upon ſending back a new Embaſſadour, putting them in Hopes of bringing their Buſi-

neſs about again to ſome purpoſe. Nor did ſhe this without Deſign: aſſured of a very great Gain; becauſe they were able to make it good, and deſirous to do it upon the accompliſhment of their Suit. Truly, the Lady was very zealous in the Buſineſs, and purſued it heartily: upon which, the *Genoueſe*, to advance the Work, ſent her no ſmall Preſents, to make her the more vigorous in their Affair. The Court ſeemed to be for it; and *Venice*, which was the likelyeſt to oppoſe it, ſeemed to be willing to let it paſs, as not conſiderable enough to impair any of their Dignity. But they met with ſo many other Rubs and Impediments, that came out of *Germany*, *Italy* and *France*: that the Grandees of *Genoua* thought fit to deſiſt, to their no little Diſcontent, that they had caſt ſo many Preſents away upon *Donna Olimpia*.

Lucca was the only place not talked

ked of in the time of *Innocent:* as being of no great conſequence for the ſtreightneſs of their Confines. So that they had not enjoyed ſo much Peace for a long time, as under this Pope. And *Donna Olimpia* would take occaſion ſeveral times to reprove the *Barbarini*, for proſecuting ſo fiercely the Ruine of a poor little Common-wealth, that had deſerved ſo well of the Church. However, this was not ſaid on free-coſt: becauſe the *Luccheſi* had provoked her with a Preſent.

Now to come near a concluſion of the great Induſtry of *Donna Olimpia:* I ſay, that the nearer the Pope's Death approached, the greater was her affliction to find her ſelf alone, and deſtitute of thoſe neceſſary ſupports a perſon in her condition required. She knew very well none of her party would be able to do her any ſervice if Adverſity ſhould come upon her: and ſhe was pretty

well assured to have her share of it, considering her passed Actions. To see all her Relations discontented, her own Son so ill used by her self, and all the Nobility of *Rome* detesting her very Name: made her reflect night and day upon her Condition. The Princess of *Rossano* her Daughter-in-law, having so near Relation to the Duke of *Parma*, made her, if not fear, at least stand upon her guard: And the rather, because the Princess apprehending to what height the daily disgusts betwixt her and her Husband might at last come to, very wisely thought upon fortifying her Interest in her own defence, such as would be a Cardinal Prince of her Kindred, that should own his preferment immediately from her. To which end she employed all her Wits to get in the Duke of *Parma*'s Brother, her near Kinsman, to be Cardinal. But *Donna Olimpia* opposed it for the same reason

reaſon under-hand: that ſhe might not become too powerful. Thus was the Deſert of this Prince wholly layed aſide: Therefore *Donna Olimpia* did expect both Prince and Daughter-in-law to be at open defiance with her, after *Innocent*'s Death.

To deliver her ſelf of all theſe Inconveniencies which threatned her Ruine: it came into her Head to play a Game ſhould hardly be believed, when it was done. And that was to propoſe an Alliance with the *Barbarini*: whereby to oblige them with ſo near a Tie, not only to forget paſſed Injuries, but to ſtand her Friends in future Occurrences.

The *Barbarini* were in deſpair of ever having ſo fair an Occaſion offered them as was, never expecting to be reconciled to *Innocent*, it being then eight years the Perſecution had been upon them. So that

Donna Olimpia met with no difficulty in her Deſign. For the *Barbarini* had tryed a thouſand wayes to be reconciled, and could never compaſs it: upon which they were not backward, when an honour was offered. Cardinal *Antonio* was more glad of this Conjuncture than the reſt: having been baniſhed for the ſpace of eight Years from his own Houſe, from *Rome*; nay, out of *Italy*; and forced to live in Forrain Parts at ſo great an Expence, as (beſides the Suſpenſion of his Revenues, which he had in the Church) had coſt him ſome Millions, loſing alſo the charge belonging to the Primogeniture.

Donna Olimpia therefore having a Daughter of her own, and Prince *Juſtiniani*'s Wife another marriageable, looked upon this as the only Means to bring about her Deſigns. Theſe her Intentions ſhe made be broke to Cardinal *Franceſco Barbarino*,

no, with a promiſe, that if the *Barbarini* would conſent to a Match for their Nephew with *Juſtiniani*'s Daughter, ſhe would reſtore them to all again, upon condition that ſhould ſerve for the Portion. And ſo it did.

The *Barbarini* looked upon this as a Bleſſing to their Houſe, which was ſomewhat low at preſent. For they doubted, if *Innocent* ſhould die, whether his Succeſſor would reſtore their Revenues, but rather keep them for his own Relations, as *Innocent* had done, and ſo they ſhould utterly be diſappointed. They therefore made no other anſwer, but that they ſhould be happy in ſuch an honour. *Donna Olimpia* had deſigned the Match to be with the Eldeſt Son of *Don Tadeo*: but the *Barbarini*, though very earneſt to have the thing done, yet managed the Buſineſs ſo cunningly, as to pretend the Eldeſt was reſolved to be a Cardinal, to relinquiſh his Birth-right to the Abbot, and take

the

the Abbey himſelf. And truly it was diſcreetly done: For by this means they were reſtored, and got another Cardinals Cap into their Family. *Donna Olimpia* eaſily agreed to it, as being deſirous to fortifie her ſelf: which ſhe thought ſhe could not do better, than by fortifying that Houſe ſhe had allyed her ſelf to; nor could they better ſecure their Intereſt, than by having another Cardinal in their Family, who made the third. A thing never ſeen before, three Cardinals of the ſame Houſe living at a time.

All being concluded, and the Wedding kept in great State, and to the aſtoniſhment of all men, to ſee ſuch a Change: the next Creation that came, the elder Brother was made Cardinal. Thus the *Barbarini* got off; which was their principal Concern. For if they had not diſpatched their Buſineſs now: the next Pope would not have failed

failed to have given them work enough; which labour they now ſaved.

Returned into Favour, the Pope gave them very great reſpect: and together with *Donna Olimpia*, they governed all the Church Affairs of Importance. Now for the Damage they ſuffered through eight Years Abſence: in two Years and upwards that *Innocent* lived afterwards, it is moſt certain, they had licked themſelves ſo whole again, by having been formerly experienced in the Government and manner of that Climate, that you could not find where they had been hurt.

No man ought to wonder, that the Pope ſhould ſo eaſily condeſcend to the Creation of another Cardinal *Barbarino*, or that they ſhould preſume to demand it over and above the Honour of ſo great a Match, and reſtauration to all their Revenues: ſince there was all the

the reaſon in the World for it. And I will tell you how.

It is an ancient and common practice among the Popes, for the Succeſſor to relinquiſh his Cardinalate to the Kindred of his Predeceſſor, from whom he had firſt received his own. Now, *Innocent*, who was created Cardinal by *Urban* the Eighth a *Barbarin*, ſtood obliged to relinquiſh his Cardinalate ſo ſoon as made Pope, to the Houſe of the *Barbarini*; that is, to Create a Cardinal at their Inſtance. The *Barbarini* did not forget to make their demand for their Nephew the Abbot: But the good *Innocent*, hard'ned and incenſed againſt them, would never hearken to it. So that upon the Reconcilement by the Match, it was no longer to be deferred, as being ſo clearly due.

The *Barbarini* drove on another Deſign with this Marriage, which they had long ſought for and deſired:

red: and that was to match with ſome free Princes. And truly for many years with promiſes of large Sums they could never bring it about; till after they were allyed to *Donna Olimpia*, and then they marryed their Neece to the Duke of *Modena*, a Prince of Noble deſcent. This came eaſily to the *Barbarines:* becauſe the Duke ſeeing them returned into Favour, and in a riſing condition, expected great matters from them; beſides that he was a little ſtraitned at that time, and wanted Money. Howſoever, the *Barbarini* gave no other Portion with their Neece but the reſignaton of the Abbey of *Nonantola*, which Cardinal *Antonio* preſented to Cardinal *Eſte*, Brother to the Duke of *Modena*, being worth ſome twenty thouſand Crowns a Year.

Behold the Revolutions of the *Barbarini* under *Innocent* and *Donna Olimpia:* dead and raiſed again, caſt

caſt down and exalted beyond the fear of Fortune's viciſſitude. They ſay it was pleaſant, to ſee their near Combination and Friendſhip with *Innocent:* who committed the greateſt part of his Affairs, as well Spiritual as Temporal to their management; by which means, having not forgot their old wont of heaping up Riches, they gathered as faſt as they could, both for themſelves and *Donna Olimpia*, whom they inſtructed with new Devices to get Money on all hands.

The better to fortifie the Houſe and Perſon of *Donna Olimpia*, the *Barbarini* adviſed her to marry another of her Neeces to ſome other great *Roman* Lord. But her Deſign reached farther: for thinking her ſelf ſecure enough with the alliance of the three *Barbarini*, ſhe had propoſed to her ſelf the continuance of Dominion, through a confidence of meeting with ſome opportunity

portunity to match her Neece with the Nephew of the next Pope, by giving a good round Sum. This made her ſhe would not hear of beſtowing her Neece, as looking upon it very feiſable, and a good way, if not ſo entirely, in part at leaſt, to continue her power: well knowing, that the Idol of *Rome* is ready Money, without diſpute. But this Deſign did not take.

There were that put her in the head of marrying her to the Duke of *Parma*, with a promiſe to make his Brother Cardinal, and a large Sum of ready Money. But this was a Subject rather for diſcourſe than practice: becauſe it is certain, the Duke would never have agreed to ſuch a Match, though originally he came from the Church himſelf.

So ſoon as the *Barbarini* were fully reſtored, the Authority of the Cardinal-Patron began to decline apace: inſomuch, that ſome Embaſſadours

baſſadours would not loſe ſo much time, as to treat with him, whoſe addreſs they kew was no longer welcome to the Pope. Beſides, the Pope was ſo well ſatisfied with the Aſſiſtance of the *Barbarini*, that he diſcloſed all the ſecrets of his Heart to them: being confident of ſucceſs, through the great experience theſe had gained by the management of ſo many ſeveral Affairs, which had ſucceeded to them for two and twenty Years together under the Reign of their Uncle. And therefore he left no more but the ſhadow of Power and Command to his adopted Nephew: diſpatching all by the *Barbarini*. The worſt for this Cardinal was, that except his ordinary Emoluments, which might be worth to him ſome fifty thouſand Crowns a year, attended with no ſmall expence, he had not the opportunity to get one farthing to lay up; ſo narrowly did *Donna Olimpia* watch

watch his water. For the poor man had made a little money once of a vacant Benefice: and *Donna Olimpia* having ſmelt it out, run open mouth to the Pope to complain of him, that he had preſumed to lay hands upon that he had nothing to do with; upon which the Pope commanded him to refund all preſently to the ſaid Lady. The ſame Cardinal related this to me, juſt as I tell you: only that he told me ſo much more, as would require *Siri*'s pen to ſet it all down. The *Barbarini* looked not with a good eye upon this Carnal-Patron: not out of any immediate hatred to him, but becauſe he was *Panzirolo*'s creature, whom they had had a perfect averſion for. Therefore they diſparaged him to the Pope from time to time, as one that underſtood not the place he held: and indeed made it appear by evident demonſtrations enough. All this while *Donna Olim-*

pia was not wanting to contrive his ruine, as neither the Pope's natural Nephews, who all conſpired to his overthrow. So that the poor Cardinal ſtood betwixt Hawk and Buzzard, expecting on each hand to be made a prey of every moment; little relying upon his authority, when he ſaw how cool the Pope grew towards him, and how warm in his kindneſs to the *Barbarini*. However he abated proportionably in his reſpect to *Donna Olimpia*, as he found the Pope indifferent towards him: But to the *Barbarini* he was not only civil but obſequious, paying them the greateſt honour imaginable, with all expreſſions of affection upon every encounter, to procure their good will: but theſe deviſes are ſo ſtale in *Rome*, that no body heeds them any more. Every body knows that in this Countrey men do reverence to the ground in the morning to thoſe they could willingly

ly ſee hanged in the afternoon; ſo that obſervance, courtſhip, reverence, ſalutes and kiſſingof the hand in the *Roman* Court, are performed by the eye and not the heart. The *Barbarini* had been too long trained in that School to be moved at thoſe ceremonies the Cardinal Patron beſtowed upon them: and therefore they payed him in the like coyn, not from the heart, but with eye ſervice; which ſweet they omitted not to embitter with ſuch a ſeaſoning as ſhould poyſon his Fortunes. And they had their deſire to the ſatisfaction of themſelves, *Donna Olimpia*, and all the Pope's kindred.

As the intereſt of the Cardinal Patron was thus dwindling away, his hidden Enemies were not backward to give the fatal blow: which to the great aſtoniſhment of all *Rome* was publickly done. For the Pope in great wrath againſt the perſon of this Cardinal, thundred out

ſuch ſtorms of indignation againſt him, that one would have thought greater could not have been ſentenced upon one guilty of High Treaſon. He forbad him his preſence in the moſt diſgraceful manner: commanded that upon no pretence whatever, he ſhould be permitted to approach the Court: took away from him the Title of Cardinal Patron: deprived him of that of Nephew, with expreſs order that he ſhould no more be called *Panfilio*, but *Aſtalli*: Sequeſtred his Revenues, and all the Offices and Preferments he held: and at laſt baniſhed him from the City of *Rome*, with a reſtraint from taking any of his Moveables away. Theſe Extravagancies made ſome laugh, and others complain: though from ſo unexpected an advance, nothing could be expected leſs than a mad and haſty Deſtruction, ſuch as this was.

The noiſe of this was no ſooner ſpread

ſpread about the City, and Cardinal *Aſtalli* ſtole privately away, out of ſhame to be ſeen in a condition ſo different from his former: but the *Romans*, according to their uſual cuſtom, would needs find out the ground of all this. Some aſcribed it to the ambition of the *Barbarini*, that they might diſpoſe wholly of the Pope, whom they had got into their hands: others layed all the fault upon *Donna Olimpia*, who could endure no Competitor or Aſſiſtant in gathering up her Wealth: nor wanted there ſuch as verily believed the Pope himſelf had taken occaſion to do this thing, that towards his latter end he might be reconciled to his true Nephews, who were much offended at him for Creating an Adopted Nephew. There is ſomething of Reaſon in each of theſe Opinions to prevail with us: but the chief ground of this Reformation came from ano-

ther Source; the Pope being inclined to it upon more intricate and deep conſiderations, ſuch as were theſe following.

In the time of *Urban* their Uncle, the *Barbarini* were grown ſo high, that they thought, after ſo long a Reign, to do Miracles, nor could they with patience read that *Siſtus quartus*, *Paulus tertius*, *Alexander* the ſixth, *Clement* the ſeventh, and ſo many other Popes, which did not continue half the time their Uncle had then dated, yet ſhould compaſs their wiſhes to that degree, as to leave great and free Princes of their poſterity, and they after ſo long a Reign, and with a greater treaſure could not overcome that difficulty of making themſelves free Princes. They directed all their thoughts to that Deſign, and with the Proſpective Glaſſes of their ambition daily ſurveyed all *Italy*. They thought they had *Urban* ſure,

after

after the Duke was dead without Heirs, in the Year 1631. But when that Deſign failed them, they caſt their eye upon *Luca*, where they met with rubs, before they had begun their Project. Afterwards the War with the Duke of *Parma* coming on, they concluded they had gained their purpoſe by reſolving to drive the *Farneſi* out of their Principality by main force: however they found it requiſite to deſiſt from that Enterpriſe, for fear of draining their purſe too much. At laſt, they fixed their eyes upon the Kingdome of *Naples*, as likely to meet with better Fortune in the Acquiſition of a Crown, than that of Principalities. Now as they were contriving to out the King of *Spain*, and inveſt themſelves of *Naples*, *Urban* dies, and ſoon after ſucceeds the Election of *Innocent*: and then they had enough to do to ſave their own

lives without looking after Crowns, which their ambition onely gave them Title to. Cardinal *Antonio* returned to *Rome*, and all the *Barbarini* into Favour with *Innocent*, they began to torment his decrepit Carcaſs with the ſuggeſtions of conquering the Kingdome of *Naples*, not without reproaching him for letting ſlip ſo fair an occaſion in the Year 1647. at the time of *Mas' Anello's* Revolt. The declining eſtate of the *Spaniard*, made them ſuppoſe the attempt more feiſable than they themſelves could comprehend.

The Pope, doting with Age, readily conſented to the Deſign. *Donna Olimpia* expecting to have the largeſt ſhare for her Nephews and Sons, was reſolved to contribute a conſiderable Sum of ready Money: and the *Barbarini* engaged to maintain an Army of ten thouſand Men at their own Coſt, till the Church

ſhould

ſhould be abſolutely in poſſeſſion; only upon condition that the Principality of *Salerno* ſhould remain exempt from the other Dominions to the Houſe of the *Barbarini*, with a freedom of pretence to buy in other with their Money. The truth is, finding this Kingdom ſo ſpatious, and full of Principalities; they thought not only to make their Nephews, but all their Foot-Boys Princes: Thus furiouſly doth Ambition drive.

Theſe Tranſactions were carryed with great ſecrecy betwixt the Pope, the *Barbarini*, *Donna Olimpia*, and ſome of her neareſt Relations. The Cardinal-Patron was judged unfit to be taken in, as one that diſcovered too much inclination towards the *Spaniard:* and ſo he was wholly excluded from ſuch Conferences. However, they could not be ſo cloſe, but that the Cardinal had a miſtruſt of it; which made

made him induſtrious to diſcover the bottom; and that no ſooner done, but to give proof of his Fidelity to *Spain*; and withall to be revenged of the *Barbarini*, who would not truſt him; he gave an exact Accompt to the *Spaniard*, with whom he held a ſtreight League of Friendſhip.

Monſignor *Azzolini* was at that time over the Briefs, which is a charge of great Importance, Truſt and Secrecy: ſo that he was likewiſe privy to the Plot we ſpoke of before. The Pope no ſooner underſtood that the *Spaniard* had fitted all out, and by conſequence knew his Deſign; but he preſently gave order to *Azzolini*, to uſe all diligence poſſible, to find out who had revealed the Buſineſs: with an aſſurance of a Cardinals Cap, ſo ſoon as he ſhould diſcover the Traitour. *Azzolini* tempted by this invitation, ſet to his task, which in plain

plain language is a Spie: and with little noiſe and great induſtry found out the Traitour, intimating it privately to the Pope, making it evident to him the Treachery of his adopted Nephew, as being the Perſon that had revealed this Secret. For which Cauſe, the Pope uſed Cardinal *Aſtalli* ſo ill, as he did: and made *Azzolini* Cardinal in recompenſe of this Service, the firſt Promotion that fell after this Accident. Thus of theſe two Youths, the one as Traitour, was in diſgrace with the Pope; the other as a Spie, got a Cardinals Cap; and one way or other both remain Cardinals.

Upon this, *Donna Olimpia* finding her Brother-in-law quite decayed, as it were with the Age of fourſcore Years, which is conſiderable for a Gouty perſon, who had continually a world of Cares upon him; or whether it was that the Pope himſelf ſenſible of his own failings

and

and decay of parts, with the loſs of his Taſte; apprehending leſt the *Spaniards*, incenſed againſt him, ſhould procure his Death, by ſome little preparation they are uſed to provide for ſuch as they cannot confide in; and not knowing to whom better to commit his Life, than to that dear Kinſwoman, for whoſe ſake he had forfeited the reputation of his Perſon, and the honour of the Church: he reſolves to call her into the Palace, and put himſelf intirely into her hands, and the diſcretion of her conduct. A thing altogether new, not ever heard of before; that Ladies ſhould govern Popes. Though to me it ſeems not at all ſtrange: that the ſame Lady which had commanded him in his Youth, ſhould take care of him in his Old Age.

A pretty ſight, they ſay, it was to ſee *Donna Olimpia* in the Pope's Chamber conſtantly by his Bed-

ſide,

ſide, holding one of his hands between hers: for he was not able for weakneſs to ſit up. She had ſo contrived Curtains to be drawn at the ſide of the Bed, that ſhe could ſee without beeing ſeen, and hear without being perceived. And this ſhe had to withdraw her ſelf at any time, when the Pope gave Audience to Embaſſadours, who ſhould not be able to utter a word that this concealed Lady would not be privy to: though oftentimes the Veil was taken off, and ſhe would anſwer her ſelf in behalf of the languiſhing Pope, to the no ſmall affliction of the Embaſſadours.

This Lady fed the Pope with her own hands, having given much ſtricter order than uſual, that no body ſhould come into the Pope's Kitchin unleſs ſhe were by, only the Cook himſelf. Moſt commonly ſhe made a little Table be drawn to the Bed-ſide, where ſhe dined with

the

the Pope: though ſhe would never admit her own Son to that Honour. In fine, there was no more talk in the Palace, but of *Donna Olimpia*, *Donna Olimpia* here, and *Donna Olimpia* there, all Letters delivered to *Donna Olimpia*, it was *Donna Olimpia* that peruſed them: the Memorials were no longer brought to the Pope, but to *Donna Olimpia*, who told him the Contents of them, and had always this Duplicate for Anſwer, *Fate voi*, *fate voi*; as much as to ſay, Pray do you look after it.

A man could ſee nothing but Preſents ſtill going up the *Vatican* Stairs: but you never ſaw any come back again. Every two or three dayes, you ſhould meet three or four Porters loaded with Money. At night *Donna Olimpia* would ſlip out to viſit her own Palace: having firſt locked up the Pope's Chamber and taken the Key with her.

All

All the Pope ſpoke with, he told them plainly, that but for *Donna Olimpia* he ſhould be dead, and that he owed his Life to her. The Princeſs of *Roſſano* came into the Pope's Chamber one day to viſit him, while *Donna Olimpia* ſate upon the Bed by him, holding him by the hand. The Princeſs in the middle of their diſcourſe finding a fit opportunity, ſaid laughing to the Pope, *Moſt holy Father, I am jealous to ſee you make ſo much of my Mother-in-law that is old, and not of me that am ſo much younger.* The Pope ſeeming to hold up the Humour, anſwered her merrily, *The hand that wounded me, is that which gives me relief.* Words that however meant, confirmed the Princeſs in the ſuſpicion ſhe had of theſe two.

At laſt *Donna Olimpia* grew ſo ſuſpicious that any body ſhould come near him, as ſhe would not leave him a moment, though her

own

own Son or Relations were in the room. Having thus made her-ſelf a Priſoner, ſhe was ſeen no more to paſs the ſtreets of *Rome*, not ſo much as goe in Devotion to any Church: only, as I told you, ſometimes ſhe would ſteal to her own Palace by night to turn over her Bags.

Her keeping ſo cloſe to the Pope, and by conſequence her not appearing abroad, made the Courtiers interpret it not her care of the Pope, but fear of the People: who as ſoon as ever they ſaw her, would ſet a running after her Coach, crying Bread, Bread. Inſomuch, that one day ſhe had much ado to ſave her Life. For the people, enraged to have one continual Famine laſt all over the City and Territory of *Rome*, beſides ſo many other grievances, which produced nothing but the embelliſhing of a few ſtreets with Fountains, and the

ſatiating

ſatiating *Donna Olimpia's* thirſt after Gold: as they ſaw her Coach paſs by, they came up to it in a rude and inſolent manner, calling her a thouſand Whores; ſo that ſhe was fain to make her eſcape into a Covent, and afterwards to the Popes Palace, leaving it to His Holineſs to qualifie them by a Dole of ſome quantity of Bread. After this affront, ſhe was aſhamed to appear in publick: beſides that ſhe miſtruſted to meet with ſome worſe misfortune. Not withſtanding the people ceaſed not to exclaim daily againſt her, ſinging ſcurrilous Ballads of her all night about the ſtreets. Nay, I muſt tell you, a great Company of the Rabble got into her Houſe one Day in a great Fury, and were going to pillage it, if the Pope had not preſently in prevention ſent ſome Biſhops to diſperſe a thouſand or more of Crowns to be ſcrambled for by the

people, which with large promiſes quieted them for the preſent.

She would have made her peace with all the Male-contents towards the latter end of her Brother-in-law: but that her greedineſs after Riches would not let her think of the means of doing it. Beſides, that ſhe preſumed to be well enough fortified by the alliance of the *Barbarini*: having Wealth enough to defie Fortune. She was a little concerned, that ſhe had any difference with Cardinal *Sforza*, for the diſpleaſure ſhe had done him: not out of any fear ſhe had directly of his perſon; but becauſe ſhe knew him to be a man of a turbulent Spirit, and eaſily provoked to talk; ſo ſhe doubted, when *Innocent* was dead, he might by his diſcourſe procure her more trouble.

This Cardinal, who is yet alive, and hath a Genious, fitter for a Souldier,

Souldier, than a Prieſt, was made Chamberlain in Cardinal *Antonio*'s place, which carries profit as well as great Honour along with it. But according to his free way of ſpeaking, he began to inveigh openly againſt *Donna Olimpia*, not being able to mention her but with great bitterneſs in all company, to the great diſparagement of her perſon: ſo that ſhe was neceſſitated to diſgrace him with the Pope, and oblige him to retire to his Church of *Rimini*, where he is Biſhop. There was nothing at this time terrified *Donna Olimpia* ſo much, as this Cardinals tongue: and ſhe would moſt readily have obliged him, upon condition he would have left off his murmuring kind of Muſick. But when ſhe conſidered one of that Kidney was never to be won, either with Gifts, Promiſes, or Hopes: ſhe changed her Note, and made asif ſhe was not concerned at him; a-

bout which time *Innocent* died.

After the Month of *September* in the Year 1654. the Pope began to decline past hopes. With the vigour of his body, the faculties of his mind began to fail him, insomuch as he forgot by night what he had done in the morning, and many times talked idly. Upon which *Donna Olimpia* suffered him to be seen as little as possible, even to his best Friends: and when she could not hinder the admittance of an Embassador, she entreated him to use as few words as might be; ever pretending that he had not Rested well that night, to make them think his Distemper came from want of sleep, and not decay of Spirits.

Prince *Camillo*, otherwise called *Panfilio*, removed his Habitation to the Court, that is the *Vatican*, to receive the Audience of the Embassadors. But they made little

little addreſs, ſeeing the Popes condition, and that nothing ever came to a Reſult, but ſtill put off with this anſwer: that they muſt wait for the Recovery of a decayed, dying Pope. The Princeſs likwiſe came to Court with her Husband; but did not appear publickly, and for the moſt part continued in her own Palace all the day time. In ſhort, the Ladies were ſeen walk up and down the *Vatican* by Night. The Princeſs *Juſtiniani*, the Princeſs *Ludoviſi*, and the Princeſs *Panfilia*, came in all one night, to the high diſpleaſure of *Donna Olimpia*. However, this great Concourſe of Women was obſerved only for a Month before the Pope died. Hence was it that *Paſquin* ſeeing many Ladies in the *Vatican*, contrary to the uſual cuſtom, made bold to tell *Marforio* merrily;

Se tu vuoi fare il Ruffiano,
Troverai Donne a'l Vaticano.

If you've a mind to play the Ruffian,
You may find wenches at the *Vatican.*

The Pope continued ten dayes without any uſe of Reaſon: and it is thought, *Donna Olimpia* got in that time, above half a Million. For the aſpiring Spirits, for fear of letting ſlip ſo fair an opportunity, and knowing the greedineſs of *Donna Olimpia*, run as if the Devil drove them to buy Eccleſiaſtical preferments: which ſhe beſtowed with her eyes ſhut, ſo they came but with their hands open. I know a Canon that had ſought for a Biſhoprick more than a hundred times, without ever obtaining it. And the reaſon was, he would give *Donna Olimpia* but five thouſand Crowns for it, and ſhe demanded eight thouſand: ſo that though he came up at laſt to ſix thouſand, they could not agree. But now towards the latter

latter end the ſame *Donna Olimpia* ſends for him, to know whether he was ſtill in the mind he had been formerly; and when ſhe found him a little cool, proteſting to her that a violent temptation of the Fleſh had made him ſpend two thouſand Crowns upon a lewd Woman: Oh, well, well, ſays ſhe, then you have four thouſand Crowns left, bring them to me, that you may not loſe that which I keep for you, and you ſhall be Biſhop for me; ſo ſhall I not loſe the ſatisfaction of preſenting ſo worthy a perſon to that Dignity. Thus was he declared Biſhop at the very inſtant he layed down his four thouſand Crowns. Another Clergy Man that had purchaſed a Benifice for two thouſand Crowns, felt ſuch a remorſe of Conſcience a little while after, that he would not go to take poſſeſſion, but came to *Donna Olimpia*, and did beſeech her to accept his ſurrender

of that he had never yet entred upon, and only pay him back three parts of what he had given her: for he felt the torments of Hell for the *Simony* he had contracted. *Donna Olimpia* gave him no other answer, but that the Pope was yet living, and that he gave him his Benediction; by which means the Devils could do him no harm. This was the comfort she ordinarily gave to *Simoniakes*.

It is incredible to reckon up the gross Simonies that were committed in *Rome*, during the sway of this Lady, especially towards the latter end. The *Barbarini* made great haste to be Rich, under the Reign of their Uncle: but yet they never forgot their reverence to the Church, still making their gain some other way, than by that of *Simony*. And if they did chance to make bold a little, it was very privately, and not with such open impudence

pudence as this Lady. But the truth is, the *Barbarini* diſpoſed of a Church, where they were to continue as Cardinals: now *Donna Olimpia* commanded a Church, which it was likely ſome time or other, ſhe would be obliged not only to quit, but fly from as a Woman.

A certain Marquiſs had the curioſity at a great expence and trouble, to make a Computation of the *Simonies* committed by *Donna Olimpia:* but for fear of being reputed a Heretick, he left his Work unfiniſhed, having diſcovered that in *Marca* only, which is but an indifferent Province; ſhe had ſold in the ſpace of ten Years, three hundred thirty ſix Benefices, that were commonly known, beſides what had paſſed under-hand. The Confeſſors proteſted the name of *Simony* was become ſo ſcandalous frequent, that many would not go to Church, becauſe they would not meet with Church-

Church-men; and others finding the abuſe ſo general, would not believe it to be a Sin.

The *French* Prelates had nothing to anſwer the Proteſtants, that Jeered at the Church of *Rome* for its *Simony*, and other Enormities there committed: ſo that they encreaſed their Church very much by it.

A *German* Biſhop, who had ſome number of Proteſtants in his Dioceſs, troubled to hear ſo many Reproaches, and ſee ſo many Writings they publiſhed, to the ſhame of the *Roman* Church, for her frequent *Simonies*: took occaſion one day to write to the Congregation of Cardinals; that if the *Simonies of* Donna Olimpia *ceaſed not in* Rome, *he ſhould run hazzard of loſing his Biſhoprick, and the Church of* Rome *the People.* This Letter came not to *Rome* till three days before the Pope's Death: and then Cardinal *Franceſco Barbarino* kept it from the other Cardinals. *Spain,*

Spain, which is thought the firmeſt part of Chriſtendome to the Church of *Rome*, began to wave a little upon thoſe horrid accompts were brought of this Ladies diſpoſal of the Church. Nay, there were Biſhops that called a Synod, to adviſe how to extinguiſh that ſcandalous name of *Simony*, which gave ſo high offence both to Clergy and People.

At laſt it pleaſed the divine goodneſs, which rules all, to free the Church of ſo abominable a ſcandal by the death of the Pope.

Innocent died the ſeventh of *January*, in the Year 1655. after he had governed ten Years, four Months and twenty Days. A Pope, that truly might have deſerved a better Record, had not his Manners been debauched by his Siſter-in-law.

The Church hath no reaſon to complain of him, as he was himſelf; but it complains in him of *Donna Olimpia*. Had he made *Donna Olimpia*

pia live in him, and not he in her, his Aſhes might have deſerved an eternal Monument, and not to be buryed in oblivion, as it is now neceſſary, to aboliſh the memory of of his Siſter-in-law. He was not innocent, becauſe *Donna Olimpia* was *Innocent*: but had ſhe been innocent, he might then have deſerved the name of *Innocent*.

The two Nights before he died all the Kindred were buſie in carrying away the Moveables from the *Vatican* to *Donna Olimpia's* Palace: and that with great ſecrecy, for fear if the People ſhould get knowledge of it, they ſhould out of confidence that the Pope were dead, ſtop them by the way by force, out of the great hatred they had for *Donna Olimpia*. But Fortune was ſo favourable, as not to make the leaſt rub in the way, as I ſuppoſe, that ſhe might conclude with the ſame propitious aſpect upon

on this Lady, as ſhe had begun.

Thus had *Donna Olimpia* no ſooner cloſed the Pope's Eyes: but leaving the Body where it had expired in the Quirinale; ſhe, by the aſſiſtants of ſome of her Confidents, got to her own Palace with her Son and Nephews, after having given notice to the Cardinals and Embaſſadours by ſome of the Clerks, as the cuſtom is. But this advice was two days going about after the Pope's death. For his Relations conceal it ſo long as it is poſſible, that they may fortifie their Intereſt in the mean time, and get Money ſo long as they can.

The Death of *Innocent* was no ſooner divulged, but the City began to rejoyce, as it alwayes does in ſuch Conjunctures. And no wonder: ſince that which gives the People ſo great a ſatisfaction, is the Liberty they have during an empty Chair. The Cardinals are raviſhed with the Hopes that each pretend

pretend to, if not directly to be Pope, at leaſt to have one of his own chooſing. All the Kindred and Friends of the Cardinals are drunk with joy, to think that they may arrive to the ſame pitch, the former are fallen from. And laſtly, the diſcontented parties are glad to find themſelves quitted of a preſent oppreſſion.

But if ever *Rome* was in a merry mood for the Death of a Pope, certainly it was for that of *Innocent*. It was beyond all compariſon, not ſo much in reſpect of *Innocent* himſelf, as of *Donna Olimpia*, whom they perfectly hated. All ſort of People bleſſed God for his Mercy, in delivering the Church from the violence of *Donna Olimpia*.

It was verily believed, that during the vacancy, the Fury of the rude Multitude would have offered ſome Inſolence to the Palace and Perſon of this Lady: who therefore

appeared

appeared abroad as little as ſhe could. However nothing happened. For as they ſay in *Rome*, *When the Dog is dead*, *all Malice dies with him*. Thus they thought no more of *Donna Olimpia*: as fearing on the other ſide, to draw the diſpleaſure of all thoſe other great Families, ſhe was allied to, upon themſelves.

But yet if ever ſhe found her ſelf in a peck of Troubles, it was at this time; for fear ſhe ſhould ſee ſome Hope that was her Enemy, in the *Vatican*. She was induſtrious beyond meaſure, in ſifting out the Addreſſes and Inclinations of the Cardinals, and entertaining private Conferences with her Intimates, the *Barbarini* eſpecially. So that by her vigilancy and contrivance ſhe prevailed with ſome Cardinals to make up a flying Squadron, as you ſhall ſee hereafter. It began to appear plainly in the Conclave, which

which was held in the Sacrefty of Saint *Peter*, that there was an evident diviſion in the Opinions of the Cardinals: and by conſequence it was like to hold long, each Faction reſolving to be obſtinate in their Cauſe. *Donna Olimpia*, that ſhe might likewiſe have her ſhare in the Conclave, that might look like a Party, addreſſed her ſelf to ſome Creatures of the New Colledge; that is, Cardinals created by *Innocent*, to form themſelves in a Body, under the name of the Flying Squadron. The motion was very well received, and put into execution. It is true, there were ſome admitted that had no great kindneſs for *Donna Olimpia:* but ſhe was aſſured of the major part, who reſolved to make no Pope, that were not a Friend to the Houſe of *Panfilio*. Yet at laſt, ſhe could not but have a ſuſpition of them: when having ſent her Son, the Prince

Panfilio,

Panfilio, to entreat the Cardinals of the Flying Squadron, to put themſelves under a Head, which he named, and it was Cardinal *John Carlo di Medici*, who for his Seniority in the New Colledge, and the greatneſs of his Birth, and being the firſt of *Innocent*'s creation, might have deſerved; they gave this anſwer, *That they had each of them a Head of their own, and Feet to walk upon, without being beholding to any Body elſe for theirs.*

It would require ſome time here to ſet down all the paſſages and tranſactions of the Conclave. For to ſay truth, ſetting aſide the Intereſts of *France* and *Spain*, every thing bent either to the ruine or preſervation of *Donna Olimpia.* The Cardinals that were her Enemies, would have given their Voices for the Devil, if he would have ſtood her Enemy: and her Friends would have ſhut out a Saint, had he de-

clared againſt her. And truly, their violent proceedings gave us to underſtand as much. Thoſe that moſt ſtickled for her, were theſe ſix; the three *Barbarini*, *Azzolini*, *Cherubino*, and *Gualtieri*. They were more than thirty that oppoſed her, of which eight or nine of *Innocent's* own Creatures, which were the Cardinals *Sforza*, *Savelli*, *Aſtalli*, *Lomellino*, *Imperiale*, *Borromeo*, *Pio*, *Ludoviſio*, *Aldobrandino*, and her own Nephew *Maldachini*; who firſt declared himſelf her Enemy, as the Fates would have it, and made more Noiſe than all of them againſt his Aunt. Though indeed, he was but laughed at for his pains by the Conclave, which had a very mean Opinion of him. Nay, his Aunt, when ſhe heard how loud he was, ſaid onely this, *The Voice of an Aſs will never reach Heaven.*

It was verily thought, nay, the Cardinals themſelves made it appear,

pear, that had it not been for the Intereſts that *Donna Olimpia* drove on, the Conclave had been at an end within a Month, whereas now it laſted three. The Lady pleaſed her-ſelf to think of Cardinal *Franceſco Barbarino* his being Pope: as he that layed her Concerns moſt to heart, after the Reconcilement. And truly he puſhed hard for it: carrying more than thirty Voices, that ſtood ſtifly to have none but him. A Cardinal, who for his uprightneſs of Life, deſerved ſuch an Honour: had that been the Rule the Conclave went by. Except *Barbarino*, *Donna Olimpia* was to ſeek whom to wiſh for, as a Pope to her purpoſe, had it been left to her choice: ſo that all her Endevours were only to keep off her declared Enemies.

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Palotta, a Man well deſerving, and one that was biaſſed with no Intereſt, which uſed to be the great obſtacle to that preferment. He was no ſooner brought into play, but Cardinal *Barbarino* declared he would never give way to the Election of a perſon, from whom was infallibly to be expected the Puniſhment of *Donna Olimpia*, who had done conſiderable Injuries to *Palotta*. So this Man's hopes were diſappointed, to the diſlike of many an honeſt Man. The ſecond was Cardinal *Maculano*, of the order of Saint *Dominike*, who bare the title of Saint *Clement*: and indeed there was not ſo much ſtir for any body in the Conclave, as about his Election. He was a Cardinal, but lived more like a Hermite, than a perſon of that quality, never being able to forget his Cloiſter life: upon which many judging him to be a conſcientious perſon, put hard

for

for his Election. But *Donna Olimpia* looked upon him as a Fury, or the Devil in humane ſhape: becauſe *Innocent*, out of the perfect hatred he bare him, had always repreſented him ſo to her. And therefore during his Reign ſhe was continually putting affronts upon the poor man, not ſo much to ſatisfie her own malice, as to pleaſe her Brother-in-law. Now this made the Lady doubt if *Maculano* ſhould be made Pope, he would take all his revenge out upon her. So ſhe gave in charge never to approve of *Maculano*, but to ſet him down in the book as the firſt to be excluded.

Barbarino promiſed to do his beſt, and did it with a great deal of pains, and the help of Cardinal *Antonio*, who concurred likewiſe in the excluſion. The Partiſans of Saint *Clement* finding themſelves at a ſtand, made all means poſſible to quiet *Donna Olimpia*. They al-

ledged that *Maculano* or Saint *Clement*, being a Subject of the Duke of *Parma*, ſo neer a Relation to the Princeſs of *Roſſana* her Daughter-in-law, would certainly never do her any prejudice: becauſe the greateſt miſchief being what ſhould concern her Eſtate, he would never do that for the Princeſs her ſake, who was to ſhare in the Inheritance. But theſe ſeeming Reaſons incenſed *Donna Olimpia* the more. For when ſhe conſidered that her perſecution muſt be kept off by the Princeſs her means: ſhe took on like a Mad-woman, ſwearing, *That ſhe had rather periſh under the Indignation, than live upon the recommendation of her Daughter-in-law.* Thus was Saint *Clement* kept out.

The third they ſhut out was *Cecchini*, who hated her more than all the reſt, by reaſon of the Proceſs that was commenced by her means againſt him and *Maſcambruno*, to take

take away the Datary from them, and to be made uncapable of any Office where the Pope had to do. In ſhort, he was perſecuted as guilty of High Treaſon againſt this Lady: and therefore apprehending his anger, ſhe made it her buſineſs to exclude him, and did effect it.

Many others there were that ſhe excluded: but not with that violence as ſhe did theſe three, openly profeſſing rather to dye, than to ſee any of them Pope. Nevertheleſs, if ſhe had her will againſt her Enemies, which were not few, ſhe miſſed of it in the behalf of her Friends: and indeed ſhe and *Barbarino* declared, ſo they could keep off her ſworn Enemies, they did not much care who elſe was choſen.

However they did endevour to ſet up Cardinal *Cherubino*, one of little experience, and no Conjurer. But ſuch defects are not much con-

ſidered in the Conclave, and therefore did him ſmall harm: They were only *Donna Olimpia's* Adverſaries that would not admit of him, becauſe he was of her ſide. So that it was obſerved more than twenty Cardinals anſwered thoſe that propoſed *Cherubino* in the ſelf ſame words one after another, *I give my vote againſt him, becauſe I will not have* Donna Olimpia *triumph amongſt the Cherubins.*

This Lady had no great opinion of *Sacchetti*, yet ſhe did not oppoſe him openly. Afterwards ſeeing how fiercely his Partiſans carried on his Cauſe, who thought verily to have made him Pope: being leſs afraid of him than of many others that put for it, to cajole with him, ſhe began to make *Azzolini* and *Gualteri* for him; who did their weak endevour, though in vain.

Cardinal *Spada* counterfeiting himſelf ſick, got out of the Conclave,

clave, and preſently began to treat with *Donna Olimpia*, deſiring her to ſtand *Carpegna's* Friend, who had gone all along with her party: to whom ſhe made anſwer, that ſhe had referred all to Cardinal *Barbarino*, whoſe choice ſhe was reſolved to ſtand to. Thus returned the good man into the Conclave again, but without ever compaſſing his deſign.

The Cardinals *Gualteri* and *Azzolini* without doubt got a great deal of ill will in the Conclave, of which Cardinal *Franceſco Barbarino* had no ſmall ſhare: and that for the great diſturbance they made to maintain *Donna Olimpia's* Intereſt, who was diſcourſed of in the Conclave with moſt ignominious Language. They wondered not ſo much at *Azzolini* and *Gualtieri*, becauſe they looked upon them as men of lives little anſwerable to their dignity; beſides that, they were

were not made by the Church but *Donna Olimpia*, and ſo not by deſert: but that which amazed them, was to ſee a Cardinal, ſuch as *Barbarino*, ſo good and ſincere a perſon, that we may ſay, he was the glory of the Conſiſtory, forſake the Intereſt of the Church, and embrace that of a Woman. Divers Cardinals, when they ſaw *Barbarino* would not allow of *Palotta* and *Maculano* for *Donna Olimpia's* ſake, began to ſay, they ſhould never have believed, that *Barbarino* would prefer a wicked Woman before two good men. Cardinal *Sforza*, who endevoured more than any to procure a Pope that ſhould be her Enemy, that he might have the ſatisfaction to ſee her well chaſtized; not able to endure that *Barbarino* ſhould concern himſelf ſo much for her, went about all the Conclave, telling them, according to his wonted bluntneſs, *That till*

then

then he had taken Barbarino *for a good Cardinal, but for the future he ſhould look upon him as the Son of a Whore.*

At laſt the Cardinals, weary of a three months priſon, reſolved to make an end: the rather becauſe it was told them the people would endure no longer to be without a Head, and ſo much to their inconvenience want the uſual Courts of Judicature; beſides that, they murmured more and more againſt *Donna Olimpia*, as the perſon they ſuppoſed in great meaſure guilty of this delay. This they feared might draw on ſome publique as well as private miſchief: and therefore they agreed to come to the election of one that ſhould give diſtaſt to neither ſide.

And that was Cardinal *Ghigi*, now *Alexander* the Seventh. His good manners, and exemplary Life to the world, his diſcreet manage,

and

and univerſal learning, made ſo juſt a compoſition in him, that he was the onely man judged capable of governing St. *Peter's* Ship in ſo boiſterous times.

He was made Cardinal by *Innocent* with the approbation of all the houſe of *Panſilio*. Wherefore *Donna Olimpia*, and thoſe Cardinals that ſtuck to her, willingly concurred in his election: For they did not think it any way likely that he ſhould entertain an ill thought againſt the Kinſwoman of that Pope who had made him Cardinal.

On the other ſide, thoſe Cardinals which did not favour *Donna Olimpia*, did not onely forbear to hinder but promoted the advance of *Ghigi* more than all the reſt: For they did believe ſuch a Pope would be more inclined to the ſeverity of *Eliah*, than the mildneſs of *Eliſha*; and therefore would not fail to chaſtiſe her Ladyſhip for the miſ-

chief

chief ſhe had done the Church. They thought it impoſſible ſo zealous a Pope ſhould forbear to give teſtimony to all the World of his high reſentments againſt that Woman, who was looked upon as Engine of all the Rogueries that were committed under *Innocent*'s Reign. The Cardinals *Sforza* and *Aſtalli*, her ſworn Enemies, ſpeaking with other Cardinals, their Friends, about the Election of *Ghigi*; told them if they both were contrived into a Pope, they ſhould not be able to puniſh her ſo ſufficiently, as *Ghigi* would do. For nothing could contribute ſo much to the ſcourging of her for her Simonies, as the zeal of *Ghigi*.

Thus the night before the ſcrutiny, all being reſolved upon, the Cardinals *Medici* and *Barbarino* ſent to *Ghigi* to bid him be of good comfort, that on the Morrow they would come to pay him adoration.

Cardinal

Cardinal *Roſetti Ghigi*'s Enemy, being not able to hinder the Election, asked Cardinal *Barbarino*, *What ſtrange extravagancies are theſe, that* Donna Olimpia's *Enemies will have the ſame Pope her Friends deſire: and her Friends the ſame her Enemies wiſh for.* To which *Barbarino*, that he might ſtop his mouth, and make him go along with them in the Election, anſwed; *Marvail not: For we are reſolved to have one that is not our Creature: the* Medici, *one of their Subjects:* France, *one that they had excluded: and* Spain, *an unintereſſed Perſon.*

It is not to be imagined what Joy there was every where, at the Election of Cardinal *Ghigi*. There was not one Negative Voice found in the Scrutiny, which ſeldome happens at the Election of a Pope. *Roſetti* himſelf, that ſwore he would cut his Hand off, before it ſhould contribute to *Ghigi*'s Election, gave his Vote in the end. So

So ſoon as he was declared Pope, he fell upon his Knees, and prayed, and wept a little, and then gave his Aſſent, taking the Name of *Alexander*. Thus going out of the Conclave in Proceſſion, and conducted to the *Vatican*, he began to exerciſe his Parts upon the Papal Authority. You could hear no other Diſcourſe throughout *Rome*, but of his Piety, from which they expected great matters. Prince *Camillo Panfilio*, went one of the firſt to congratulate him: to whom his Holineſs expreſſed a great kindneſs and reſpect. *Donna Olimpia* was reſolved to be none of the laſt: but beſides a Congratulation, ſhe made him by her Maggiordomo, ſhe ſent Cardinal *Azzolini* on purpoſe to ſpy out the Land, (an employment very natural to him) and to let the Pope know how great Joy ſhe had to ſee one Pope to whom her Kinſman had opened the way

way by making him Cardinal; and the more, becauſe ſhe had alwayes repreſented him to *Innocent*, as a Man of extraordinary parts; ſo that ſhe ſeemed to ſhare with him in the advance of his Fortunes.

Alexander, that knew *Azzolini* very well, and the conſtitution of *Donna Olimpia*; anſwered him in ambiguous terms, that neither argued an acceptance, nor undervaluing of their Service: which when *Azzolini* had related to the Lady, ſhe began to miſtruſt the worſt.

Indeed *Alexander* had a very ill opinion of her; but would not ſhew the effects of it at firſt ſo vigorouſly, leſt he ſhould ſeem moved out of ſelf-intereſt; always profeſſing to do things leiſurely, and with advice, as his practice witneſſeth. Her Adverſaries would not importune the Pope about her, juſt ſo ſoon as he was eſtabliſhed: and they had reaſon

reaſon for it. For by this means the Pope of himſelf, would upon ſeveral occaſions, diſcover the wicked practice of the ſaid Lady: and when the way was once opened to her perſecution, then would they ſet their laſt hand to the work.

They failed not of their aim: For the Pope met with Motives every day, both in his Civil, and Eccleſiaſtical Tranſactions, to quarrel and impriſon *Donna Olimpia.* The Datary was wholly corrupted by the *Simonies* ſhe had introduced, all Places ſold, no Treaſure left, and a thouſand other miſcarriages appeared every day. His Zeal could not ſee this, and ſit ſtill. Therefore he gave full Inſtructions to all his Officers, Spiritual and Temporal, to mak ſtrict Enpuiry, and thoroughly inform themſelves of the Conduct of *Donna Olimpia* in the Reign of *Innocent:* and that he might bethe more exactly certified,

he not only gave charge to his ordinary Officers, but deputed other private Inquiſitors in *Rome*, and about the State.

Donna Olimpia was ſo well adviſed of this diligence the Pope uſed againſt her, that ſhe tryed all ways poſſible to ſave her ſelf. She ſent Prince *Panfilio* to beſeech his Holineſs not to give credit to the malitious Informations of her Enemies, and that ſhe referred her ſelf to his untainted Juſtice and Bounty: to which he only anſwered, *If ſhe rely upon Us, Wee will do her Juſtice.*

Her Adverſaries by this time began to play their parts: each profering to prove a hundred Miſdemeanours *Donna Olimpia* had committed againſt the Church.

There was not a day paſſed over the Pope's head, that he had not preſented him a hundred memorials, to demand Juſtice againſt this Lady: beſides private Informations without

without number. All thoſe that ſhe had made her Bargains with, poſted them.

Cardinal *Barbarino*, at the entreaty of *Donna Olimpia*, went himſelf to ſpeak to the Pope in her behalf, before matters ſhould be gone too far: but found him ſo averſe to hear of any Interceſſion, that he durſt not appear for her, as plainly finding his word would do her more harm than good. For he ſaw the Pope ſo zealous for the good of the Church, that in ſtead of Clemency, he recommended Juſtice to him: ſo that he told him at parting, *That he would treat* Donna Olimpia, *as a Prince ought to do with Juſtice, and a Pope with Clemency: though her Actions ſhewed ſhe had neither Clemency nor Juſtice.* But *Barbarino* would not terriſie the poor Lady, by repeating to her the ſame words, onely wiſhed her to be as wary and circumſpect as ſhe could. Now the

Now the Pope began to diſcover his Intentions, of calling *Donna Olimpia* to an accompt for all the Money ſhe had received of the Church: upon which, her Relations fearing to loſe their ſhare of ſo goodly an Inheritance, eſpecially the Prince her Son, all joyned to help her. The Princeſs *Roſſano*, had it been only deſigned to torment her Carkaſs, no doubt would not have ſpoke a word for her: but finding it extend to the Purſe, thought her ſelf obliged for her Childrens ſake, to endevour her utmoſt to preſerve not her, but her Eſtate. However ſome of the Cardinals would not meddle with ſo tickliſh a Buſineſs, as to oppoſe a Pope, who was admired and adored, not ſo much for the eminence of his degree, as his exemplary Life. Yet all joyned in this advice: that ſhe ſhould ſtand the firſt ſhock, before ſhe fled.

In

In the mean time *Donna Olimpia* profered to have Audience of the Pope: but ſhe was ſhamefully refuſed, the Pope declaring he would give Audience to no Woman, but upon a very urgent occaſion. And they ſay he anſwered the Meſſenger over and above, *That* Donna Olimpia *had been too familiar with Popes, and therefore ſhe might diſpenſe with ſeeing them any more.*

The private Inquiſitors that I told you of before, who were appointed to learn out the Carriage of *Donna Olimpia* while her Brother-in-law was Pope, brought in daily thouſands of Accuſations againſt her, that ought to have been puniſhed not only by pecuniary Mulcts, but bodily Chaſtiſement. The cryes and complaints of ſo many poor Biſhops that were oppreſſed, ſo many worthy learned Men undone, ſo many honeſt Men perſecuted with Hunger, becauſe they

had not Money to preſent *Donna Olimpia* for a preferment, reached up to Heaven: beſides that many times as the Pope paſſed the Street, you ſhould hear the people cry out for Juſtice againſt *Donna Olimpia.*

Many began already to be ſcandalized at the Pope, that he proceeded ſo ſlowly in a Buſineſs of this nature. The *Barbarini* themſelves, who conſidering the Pope's zeal, thought it impoſſible for her Ladiſhip to eſcape, knew not what to think of it: when they ſaw how gently he came on, after ſo clear Evidences. Her Adverſaries daily inſtanced againſt her, and the Plaintiffs brought in their Depoſitions: though indeed one would have thought the general out-cry and clamour, would have been Evidence enough to have puniſhed her by, that had robbed all and ſome.

While

While things were thus wavering, *Donna Olimpia* calls all her greateſt Confidents together, to adviſe how to provide againſt the ſtorm, which ſhe looked upon as unavoidable. There were thoſe that counſelled her to retire from *Rome* into ſome neighbouring part, or into the State of ſome of her Nephews, under pretence of taking the Air. But this was not approved of: for by her departure, ſhe would certainly encourage her Enemies, and cauſe many to ſhew themſelves, that had not yet appeared: Beſides, that the Rabble would be ten times more Inſolent in her abſence, than now. Some would have had her gone to *Loreto*, *incognita*, as out of Devotion: which was not liked for many reaſons. The rather, becauſe not being able to get out of *Rome* without the Pope's Leave and Bleſſing, to be ſure he was already reſolved to

grant or deny, according as it beſt ſuited with his Deſignes: and thus it would not be diſcretion to make a bootleſs attempt. The Prince her Son, who was by, judged it not convenient to call the Chirurgeon before ſhe was wounded: then turning to his Mother, he bid her be of good comfort, telling her, *Madam, the Fool runs away while his Houſe is burning down. Stay at* Rome, *and think of no other Refuge. Look you but to your Perſon, and we will take care of your Eſtate.* Thus was this Conference determined with a ſumptuous Collation: though Cardinal *Barbarino*, who was one there, would not ſtay, but excuſed himſelf after his uſual manner upon ſuch occaſions.

That which *Donna Olimpia's* Friends and Relations propoſed for her Honour, the Pope executed by way of Juſtice. For he ſent one of his Courtiers to *Donna Olimpia*,

to

to command her expreſly from him to leave *Rome* within three days, and in eight to be at *Orvieto*, which is a City about thirty Miles from *Rome*: from whence ſhe was not to ſtir, without new Orders from his Holineſs.

It is no eaſie matter to ſay, how much this Order diſturbed her. Yet ſhe put a goood Face upon it; telling thoſe that were about her, that ſhe thanked God, who had given her a Judge, whoſe good nature diſpoſed him to nothing but what was juſt; to whoſe Breaſt ſhe referred her Cauſe moſt willingly, as aſſured of her own Innocence.

Barbarino was reſolved to venter another bout in her behalf, againſt his own inclination: but he found the Pope ſo much more hardened than formerly, that there was no coming near him; and ſo was fain to take his Leave, with a

Lord

Lord have mercy upon us. The Pope gave him no other anſwer to all his Diſcourſe than this, *We ſhall take more pity of* Donna Olimpia, *than ſhe had ſometimes of the* Barbabarini. The Cardinal caſting down his Eyes with his wonted gravity, remained ſilent; till provoked by I know not what ſuggeſtion, at laſt deſired his Holineſs to pardon *Donna Olimpia*, as his Family had done after ſo many provocations. Theſe words ſeemed to warm the Pope a little, without putting him by his conſtant gravity: and he anſwered the Cardinal in his own terms, *You have excuſed her, becauſe it was for Your Intereſt: but We cannot, becauſe it will hurt Our Conſcience.* Here the Pope ſtopped, and the Cardinal immediately took his Leave, with the uſual Ceremonies: returning ſtrait to *Donna Olimpia*, to give her an accompt of what had paſſed. Much about

about the ſame time, Prince *Panfilio* deſired Audience of the Pope: who made him be told, he would give Audience to none of *Donna Olimpia's* Relations, till ſhe were gone out of *Rome*.

It was therefore thought convenient that without any more to do, ſhe ſhould prepare to obey his Holineſs: ſince her delay would do her but an Injury. So ſhe went out of *Rome*, *incognita*, the ſecond day after the Order. That night ſhe lay ſome two Miles out of Town, where almoſt all her Friends and Relations came to ſee her: in particular, the Cardinals *Azzolini* and *Gualtieri*, who bid her take heart, and fear no colours. The Prince her Son would have gone with her to *Orvieto*, but ſhe would not let him: as eſteeming it more ſeaſonable to ſtay at *Rome*, and ſee how things went. Thus continued ſhe her Journey, and the Prince returned,

returned, receiving at his entry into the Town, an affront from ſome Boys that ran about his Coach, and ſung Songs and Libels upon his Mother. It was therefore found good prudence that *Donna Olimpia* had conveyed her ſelf ſo privately out of Town, to eſcape thoſe Inſolencies upon her own perſon.

The Town talked very much upon the commanding this Lady away. Every one ſpoke to her diſadvantage with a concerned bitterneſs. Her Relations, though Princes, durſt not almoſt ſtir abroad for three or four dayes, to avoid the clamours and invectives of the people.

The ſame day that *Donna Olimpia* quitted *Rome*, the Pope ordered to begin to take the Examination of Witneſſes for drawing up the Proceſs. He likewiſe reſolved to ſpeak to the Conſiſtory of Cardinals, that they

they would refer all to his Prudence and Juſtice.

In the mean time Prince *Panfilio* had Audience of him, where amongſt other things he told him, that if every Pope ſhould undertake to correct the preſuppoſed Faults of the Relations of his Predeceſſor, it would make a Noiſe in the Church not a little ſcandalous: for the Hereticks would charge all the Blame upon the Popes themſelves, without whoſe concurrence, his Relations would have been able to have done little. The Pope did not like this Diſcourſe, but told the Prince, *The Hereticks are ſcandalized to ſee Faults go unpuniſhed, and not to ſee them corrected: and it is but fitting that they ſhould give accompt to the Pope, who is to be reſponſible to God:* and ſo he diſmiſſed him.

The Politicians taxed the Prince very much of Weakneſs and Indiſcretion,

cretion, that he would entertain with ſuch Diſcourſe a Pope, who had intimated ſo great an averſion to his own Kindred, as to ſwear he would never ſuffer any of them to be admitted into *Rome*, or to any Command whatever: though his Predeceſſors had alwaies done it.

The Examinations all this while went on for accompliſhing the Proceſs, which they thought would never come to an end, ſo many ſeveral Charges and Impeachments coming daily one upon the neck of another: Therefore, the Pope appointed that *Donna Olimpia* ſhould firſt give an accompt of what was already brought before him. For which purpoſe his Holineſs ſent a Commiſſary to her Ladyſhip; to give her notice, that ſhe was to anſwer diſtinctly to theſe following particulars.

1. To

1. To give an Accompt of all the Money taken out of the Datary, without any occaſion of the Church requiring it: forceing the Officers with Menaces to comply with her inſatiable deſires and avarice.

2. That ſhe ſhould clear her ſelf of what was laid to her Charge, of having ſold multitudes of Benefices: and that upon pain of Excommunication, ſhe ſhould confeſs to the Pope all the *Simonies* that were committed in her time.

3. That ſhe would refund all thoſe ſeveral ſums of Money ſhe had received in Compoſition of thoſe that had Suits at Law, throughout the whole ſtate of the Church.

4. That ſhe would give accompt what was become of the Revenues of ſo many vacant Benefices, which the Stewards confeſſed to have payed in to her.

5. To ſhew where the Salaries of

of ſo many Offiers were, which were proved to have been carried to her Houſe.

6. She was to give accompt for all the Corn ſhe had made be carried out the State to other places, where ſhe ordered.

7. She was to pay back again all the ſuperfluous Expences ſhe had been the cauſe of.

8. To count for ſo many Taxes, Impoſts and Gabels, as were laid upon the people, to their great oppreſſion, by her inſtigation: ſince the Officers that gathered them, confeſſed they had payed all in to her.

9. She ſhould be obliged immediately to reſtore all the Jewels ſhe had taken out of the ſeveral Treaſuries, as well of Churches, as the Popes.

10. And laſt of all, ſhe was charged by more than a hundred Witneſſes, to have received over and

and above the ordinary Revenue, two Millions and an half of Gold Ducats, for which no accompt had been given: and therefore his Holineſs was reſolved ſhe ſhould make it good. This News was hardly ſo unwelcome to *Donna Olimpia*, as it was to her Relations, who expected to be her Heirs: ſo that they went buzzing about like ſo many Bees, to juſtifie the Innocence of *Donna Olimpia*. The Lady drew up a formal Writing, to make it appear that ſhe had not Intereſſed her ſelf in the Government, and that whatever came to her hands, ſhe delivered it up to the Pope, who ordered it, and laid it out where there was occaſion, as other Popes uſed to do before him,

But theſe excuſes were too weak to ballance ſo many Proofs as were made out againſt her. So that it was verily believed, what was whiſpered about Town, that the

Pope was reſolved to Sequeſter her Eſtate, and impriſon her Perſon. It is true, this was but the rumour of the people: but aſſuredly, the Pope intended to have made her give accompt for every particular.

While Affairs went on in this manner, the Dreadful Viſitation of the Plague fell upon *Rome:* ſo that moſt of the Courts being ſhut up, common Juſtice was eccliplſed by the great Judgement, Trade left off, Commerce among themſelves ſuſpended, and the Pope wholly taken up to ſave as many as he could, to give order for the Sick and the Dead; gave a ſtop to the Proceſs, and time to thoſe who were concerned to deviſe a way for *Donna Olimpia's* delivery.

But if the hand of Man, or rather the Popes, was kept from puniſhing *Donna Olimpia* for a ſea-

ſon:

ſon: yet Heaven, that watches while Mortals are aſleep, could not but waken the divine Vengeance, againſt ſo guilty a creature. The Scourge of the Plague viſited many in *Orvieto*, and amongſt the firſt that died under the execution of that Judgment, was this Lady; who ſurely by her practices, thought her ſelf immortal.

Thus died *Donna Olimpia* of the Plague in the Year 1656. at *Orvieto* ſome few Months after her perſecution. Her Corps lay above ground two dayes, having but few Servants with her, that were all dead before. So that her Body was left to the mercy of the Searchers, who were more ſollicitous about her Jewels, than her Carcaſs, which was in a manner expoſed to be eaten by Dogs and Cats. She died without a Confeſſor; which was looked upon as a Judgment upon her, who had ſo highly affronted and oppreſſed the Clergy. Her

Her Name was buried in oblivion for ſome time, while the Contagion ſtopped the peoples mouths: and this Lady, who made ſo much Noiſe during her life, had not a Mourner to bewail her Death. Though no doubt had ſhe died at any other time, ſhe ſhould have had all the honour of the Church, with a ſolemn Funeral: but in the mean time the *Piazza's* would have been filled with *Satyrs* and *Paſqui's*: For the *Romans* neither ſpare living nor dead.

It was thought ſhe left more than two Millions of Crowns in ready Money, beſides Land and Moveables in-eſtimable, and what ſhe had already beſtowed upon her Kindred. The Prince her Son was Heir to her Palace in the *Piazza Navona*: which is the faireſt in *Rome*, and where ſhe had her richeſt Goods. Indeed, except ſome few Legacies to her Kindred and certain

certain Churches, which in all amounted not to above three hundred thousand Crowns; all the rest fell to the Prince, who took up his Habitation in the *Piazza Navona.*

After her Death there was nothing more done: though it was expected the Pope would have come upon her Heirs. But the truth is, by this time the Pope was become like other men, by having changed his resolutions. For he called all his Relations up to *Rome*; which sight so melted his Heart, that he could not but think of enriching them. To which end it is believed, he drew a Million out of *Donna Olimpia's* Estate; which, without regarding the Church, the good *Alexander* distributed amongst his Kindred: and so fell that Persecution in secret, which was commenced in publick. Cardinal *Sforza*, according to his

wonted freedom, told a Friend of his, that *Donna Olimpia's* Money was paſſed *from one Thief to another.* And thus went *Donna Olimpia* off the Stage.

Thus concludeI her Story : leſt with two long a Diſcourſe of the Dead, I ſhould importune the patience of the Living.

And thus, gentle Reader, be content to have read that, which I have been ſatisfied to take the pains to write.

FINIS.